DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Towering Jansen torments India

Pacer takes six wickets as South Africa close in on historic Test series win

Page 16

Justice Surya Kant sworn in as 53rd CJI

Page 10

LONG TIMELINE
- India-Canada free trade talks first launched in 2010
- 10 rounds of talks happened
- Talks stalled between 2017 and 2022
- Talks relaunched in 2022
- Stalled again in a year over Nijjar killing row

Boost for ties as India & Canada to resume FTA talks

Target is to double trade by 2030, says Piyush Goyal

PM Narendra Modi with Canadian PM Mark Carney on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Johannesburg. PTI

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India and Canada have agreed to restart negotiations for the stalled Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), marking a major step towards normalisation of diplomatic engagements, which were strained following the controversy over the killing of Khalistani separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in 2023.

"We have agreed to begin negotiations on a high-ambition CEPA and double the trade between the two nations by 2030," Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said at an event here on Monday.

The minister claimed that the proposed CEPA would target to more than double the bilateral trade to $50 billion by 2030.

Goyal's announcement comes a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg.

Carney has accepted Prime Minister Modi's invitation to visit India in early 2026, according to a statement issued by the office of the Prime Minister of Canada on Sunday.

"The prime ministers agreed on the importance of regular reciprocal high-level visits, including by ministers and members of the business community," it said.

Carney's proposed visit is likely to give a fresh push to the India-Canada free trade negotiation, which has been lingering for almost one-and-a-half decade. The negotiation was first launched in 2010. After 10 rounds of talks it was stalled in 2017.

▸ FTA, Page 6
Canada to amend citizenship law, Page 12

India, EU set to firm up FTA at summit in Jan

The European Union is eyeing to forge a broad global agenda in partnership with India and the two sides are set to firm up a free trade pact, a defence framework agreement and a strategic agenda at their annual summit in New Delhi on January 27. The proposed FTA is expected to bring the relationship between the two sides much closer.
Details on Page 10

The people's star who defined versatility

PRAGYAN MOHANTY

Dharmendra, who died on Monday at 89, embodied the classic matinee idol: the kind women swooned over and men wanted to be.

This was playfully acknowledged in his self-referential role in Hrishikesh Mukherjee's *Guddi* (1971). And yet, there was something warm and relatable about this small-town Punjabi boy, whose tinsel town dreams were inspired by his icon Dilip Kumar's film *Shaheed* (1948).

Dharmendra Deol was at the heart of some of Hindi cinema's canon-defining films — *Mera Gaon Mera Desh* (1971), *Seeta Aur Geeta* (1972), *Yaadon Ki Baaraat* (1973), *Chupke Chupke* (1975), and *Sholay* (1975).

Dharmendra Deol
1935-2025

He bounced between genres and worked with filmmakers of every stripe: Bimal Roy, Arjun Hingorani, O P Ralhan, Dulal Guha, Pramod Chakravorty and Anil Sharma. With no formal training, he always maintained that acting was simply reacting.

Image-wise, he moved easily between the romantic aura of Rajesh Khanna, the anger and intensity of Amitabh Bachchan, and the pleasantness of Shashi Kapoor. He was also called Hindi cinema's He-Man.

Solo hits, massive multistarrers such as *Haqeeqat* (1964) and *The Burning Train* (1980), debacles such as *Shalimar* (1978) and *Razia Sultan* (1983), stylish thrillers such as *Ankhen* (1968) and *Charas* (1976), massy entertainers such as *Patthar Aur Payal* (1974) and *Pratiggya* (1975), costume epics such as *Dharam Veer* (1977) and *Raaj Tilak* (1984), and plenty of B-grade outings such as *Loha* (1987) and *Aatank* (1996) dot his six-decade long career.

He shared screen space with the likes of Ashok Kumar, Amitabh Bachchan, and Vinod Khanna.

▸ People's star, Page 6
Related reports, Page 7

Volcanic ash cloud: DGCA issues alert

NEW DELHI, PTI: Aviation regulator DGCA on Monday issued an advisory to airlines and airports to deal with possible disruptions due to the ash plume from the volcanic activity in Ethiopia.

Ash clouds from the recent eruption of the Hayli-Gubbi volcano in Ethiopia are impacting flight operations, and there are reports suggesting that clouds might also be drifting towards the western parts of India.

Akasa Air, IndiGo and KLM are among the airlines that cancelled some flights on Monday.

In a detailed advisory, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) asked airlines to strictly avoid published volcanic ash–affected areas and flight levels.
Details on Page 10

Battered Maoists seek time till February 2026 to shun arms

SNV SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

With the Centre's unrelenting offensive dealing one blow after another to Maoists, the banned outfit operating in the Maharashtra–Madhya Pradesh–Chhattisgarh (MMC) region has appealed for time until February 15, 2026, to lay down arms.

In a detailed letter addressed to the chief ministers of the three states, the MMC Special Zonal Committee of the CPI (Maoist) announced its intent to suspend armed operations and embrace the government's rehabilitation plan.

The letter, issued by spokesperson Anant on Saturday, came to light on Monday. It seeks the consent of respective state governments to facilitate a peaceful and phased disarmament process. The appeal follows a series of setbacks for the outfit, including the death of commander Madvi Hidma, one of the most wanted Maoist leaders.

Maoist proposal
- Asks Maha, C'garh and MP to suspend anti-Maoist ops
- Says it will not celebrate forthcoming PLGA Week
- Seeks meet involving public representatives and journalists to fix date for surrender
- Calls upon journalists, YouTubers and public figures to mediate

▸ Maoists, Page 6

HAL: Tejas crash isolated incident

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Bengaluru-based Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, the manufacturer of Tejas combat aircraft, on Monday said the last week's fatal crash of a Tejas aircraft was an "isolated" incident that would not impact the company's business operations and future deliveries.

The statement came on a day when HAL shares tumbled over 8% during the morning trade.
Details on Page 11

PRR: Deadlock over as BDA begins issuing awards for land

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

In what may finally make a breakthrough for the long-pending Bengaluru Business Corridor project, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has issued compensation awards for the first 100 acres of land, a significant step though it covers just 4% of the total land required for the project.

Senior officials in charge of the 74-km project, earlier known as the Peripheral Ring Road project, said the pace of awards will accelerate in the coming days, putting the land acquisition machinery into its most active phase since the project was conceptualised. "By this Friday, we hope to issue awards for an additional 300 acres of land," L K Atheeq, Chairperson of the Bengaluru Business Corridor, told *DH*.

BIG PROJECT
74 km Length | 2,560 acres Total land needed
100 acres Awards issued
Under litigation: 140 acres

"We will issue Section 12(2) notices after the awards so that land-losers can opt for the compensation of their choice," he said. "The efforts over the past one and a half months have finally started to show results."

The project needs 2,560 acres, of which about 140 acres are stuck in litigation.

▸ BBC land, Page 6

Modify Kaveri 2.0 to reflect court orders: HC

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court has directed the revenue authorities to modify the Kaveri 2.0 online platform to ensure that revenue records are amended in conformity with judicial declarations.

A bench of Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum has also ordered the constitution of a panel to implement the modifications within six months.

Kaveri 2.0 is a web-based platform managed by the department of stamps and registration to streamline registration of property transactions and marriages.

The high court has sought creation of a new workflow within Kaveri 2.0 titled 'mutation-based on civil court decree' to ensure that revenue records reflect judicial declarations, as mandated under the Karnataka Land Revenue (KLR) Act.

Issuing a series of guidelines to this effect, Justice Magadum said the current configuration of Kaveri 2.0 inadvertently creates a legal vacuum, compelling citizens to seek multiple endorsements, verifications and certifications for matters conclusively decided by courts.

"This scenario frustrates the object of Section 128 (of the KLR Act), which seeks to ensure that all acquisitions of rights whether by act of parties or operation of law are duly recorded in the revenue registers, and also contravenes Section 135, which requires revenue records to be amended in accordance with judicial declarations," Justice Magadum said.

▸ Kaveri platform, Page 6

INTEGRATED COACHING

5,923 Total number of PU colleges | 1,319 Govt-run | 4,604 Private unaided and aided colleges | 724 Govt-run science colleges | 2,303 Private and aided science colleges

Govt PU colleges make a plea after MBBS setback

RASHMI BELUR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Only 46 students from government-run pre-university colleges were able to get medical seats this year in the state, prompting experts to pitch for integrated coaching that is offered by private institutions.

Of the 46, 19 students got seats at government medical colleges and five opted for seats under the private quota due to low ranking in National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET). In 2024, 64 students from government PU colleges had bagged MBBS seats.

The poor record comes despite the state government's decision to offer online coaching for students to attempt competitive examinations conducted for admissions to various professional courses including NEET, JEE and KCET. This has intensified the demand to allow integrated coaching at all the colleges.

> Last year, online coaching resumed late and we were able to offer it hardly for three months. This year, we have got the full year and hope to see better results in 2026
> **BHARATH S,** Director, Department of PU Education

Academician Supreeth BR said that just because the government is restricting PU colleges from offering integrated coaching did not stop private tutors from doing so.

"It is high time the government allowed all colleges, including government ones, to offer coaching for professional courses. Those sending their children to private colleges are able to provide coaching from private coaching centres, but what about those enrolled at government colleges," asked Supreeth.

According to experts, online coaching is not as effective as offline.

"In the offline mode, it is a two-way interactive class, easy for students to understand and clear doubts if any. If regular teachers are not ready to conduct integrated classes, let the government hire expert teachers," said a principal of a government PU college in south Bengaluru.

▸ Medical seats, Page 6

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Three students held for assaulting resident over parking row

BENGALURU, DHNS: Ashok Nagar police have arrested three students for allegedly assaulting a private company employee over a parking dispute. The incident occurred on October 22, and a video of the attack went viral on Monday. A case of assault has been registered.

The accused — Basil Verghese, Taras Raji and Sandeep Mahadev, aged 21–22 and natives of Kerala — are BBA, MSc and BTech students at private colleges in the city.

Police said the students had come to pick up a Zoomcar for a planned trip. The victim, Azar Ahmed, questioned them about parking in the area.

The trio allegedly attacked him without provocation, pushing him to the ground and stamping on him until he lost consciousness.

Neighbours recorded the assault and alerted police, who detained the accused within hours.

Two Kerala nursing students run over by Vande Bharat Express

BENGALURU, DHNS: Two nursing students from Kerala died after being run over by a Vande Bharat Express train near the Chikkabanavara railway station on the outskirts of Bengaluru, railway police said on Monday morning.

The deceased are Sterin Elza Saji (19) and Justin Joseph (20).

Both were first-year BSc nursing students in their second semester at a private institute in Bengaluru and stayed in a paying guest accommodation.

Railway police said the incident occurred at 2.35 pm on Sunday.

Preliminary probe revealed the two were crushed by the Vande Bharat Express going to Belagavi from Bengaluru.

The incident left both individuals dead on the spot, with their bodies found mangled on the tracks. "After analysing the CCTV footage, we have concluded that it is a case of suicide. No note was recovered. A probe is underway," a senior railway police officer told *DH*.

The Bengaluru Rural Railway Police Station has registered an Unnatural Death Report (UDR).

Land fraud: Man held for duping doctor of Rs 2.7 crore

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru police have arrested a conman who cheated a doctor of Rs 2.7 crore, officials said on Monday.

The accused, identified as Sujayendra alias Sujay, a resident of RPC Layout, was arrested by Vijayanagar police based on a complaint from a doctor from Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the investigation, Sujay convinced the doctor that he would help buy land near the Bengaluru airport. He allegedly collected Rs 2.7 crore, purportedly for land-related clearances, but failed to deliver.

SECURITY GAPS: Check reveals deserted kiosks, flimsy structures & no guards after dark

Unmanned ATMs in city raise concerns

ASRA MAVAD & MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

While the Supreme Court has ruled that round-the-clock security guards are not required at ATMs, the Bengaluru city police disagree.

The recent CMS cash van heist has renewed concerns and prompted a fresh push for stronger security arrangements, particularly at kiosks in isolated stretches of the city where the risk of theft, vandalism or tampering remains significantly higher.

Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said banks must adhere to security guidelines without exception and post guards at kiosks located in low-footfall and vulnerable areas.

"Police cannot keep watch on ATMs as patrolling teams cover multiple zones. There is no major threat as a centralised alarm system alerts bank officials," he said.

Singh warned that banks would be "completely responsible if any untoward incident occurs" due to lapses in deployment. Rural ATM security is also a growing concern.

CK Baba, Superintendent of Police, Bengaluru Rural, said he has instructed patrolling teams in the outskirts to check kiosks regularly and ensure basic visibility around them.

The ATM kiosk in Kengeri looks more like a flimsy petty shop than a secure facility. DH PHOTO/MANJUNATH SHETTAR

Indiranagar residents report that this ATM has gone months without a security guard. DH PHOTO/ASRA MAVAD

Reality check

DH reporters visited about 30 ATMs across Kengeri, Malleswaram, RT Nagar, Vidyaranyapura, Indiranagar, MG Road, Mysuru Road, RR Nagar, Attiguppe and surrounding localities.

Standalone ATMs had no guards, while some kiosks attached to bank branches had security personnel. All had functioning security cameras; a few had emergency sirens, though several users were unsure about their condition.

A private bank ATM on KHB Colony Main Road was deserted; its door wide open for most of the day.

Naveen, a resident, said, "There has not been a security official here since the Covid lockdown. Beggars often wander near the ATM. I avoid it."

Some 24/7 ATMs attached to large branches had security guards, but at most locations, guards were posted only during banking hours or till 10.30 pm.

An ATM kiosk in Doddabele, Kengeri, built with flimsy walls and a makeshift structure, had no siren and only one camera. Shopkeepers nearby said police patrolling was irregular, between 10 pm and 9 am.

With robberies rising in the locality, residents avoid the kiosk entirely.

Around a week ago, the Kengeri police arrested a gang of five persons involved in several crimes, reinforcing concerns about the neighbourhood's vulnerability.

Not feasible to have constant guards, say banks

With UPI usage increasing sharply, ATM footfall has dropped, said Bhaskar Chakravarthy, Convenor, State Level Bankers Committee, Karnataka, and General Manager, Canara Bank.

"It is not feasible to have constant guards at ATMs. Each kiosk would need three guards for round-the-clock cover, and each guard is paid about Rs 18,000. We have cameras and branch managers visit every alternate day."

Chakravarthy added that consistent police surveillance is crucial. "Patrolling will help. The RBI has strict guidelines for ATM safety, but if thefts occur, police surveillance is needed. They must take responsibility. We raise these issues in quarterly meetings," he said.

CRIME TRAIL

February 2025: Police cracked a two-year internal theft scheme and arrested six people, five of them staff of a cash management firm in Mahalakshmi Layout. Inspired by the film 'Lucky Baskhar', the cash officers and loaders used their access and ATM passwords to siphon off small amounts during maintenance visits. Police recovered Rs 43.76 lakh linked to the insider operation.

July 2024: On Sarjapur Main Road, a cross-border gang carried out a quick break-in at an ATM. In the early hours, the thieves pried open the rear panel of the ATM to reach the cash boxes directly. The operation took less than three minutes, with the gang escaping with Rs 16 lakh.

December 2023: A masked man attempted to steal money from an Axis Bank ATM on Munikrishnappa Road in Vidyaranyapura, Ramachandrapura. Wearing a helmet, he forced his way in and cut the power cable and CCTV wires. The siren sounded, and he abandoned the attempt.

Cash van heist probe widens: Two more held; police recover Rs 6.55 crore

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru police on Monday announced the arrest of two more persons in connection with the Rs 7.11-crore cash van robbery case.

With this, the total arrests in the case have touched nine.

Seemant Kumar Singh

The two arrested suspects have been identified as Dinesh and Jinesh, both part of the conspiracy to rob the cash van belonging to CMS Info Systems, the company in charge of vans transporting cash, near Jayanagar last week.

Police said Dinesh was arrested in Bengaluru and Jinesh in Chennai, both on Sunday. Police said so far, they have recovered Rs 6.55 crore of the stolen Rs 7.11 crore.

"We are yet to recover Rs 56 lakh. Investigation is continuing to recover the balance amount," Lokesh B Jagalasar, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South), said. He added that since the probe was ongoing, he cannot comment on whether more arrests will follow.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh on Saturday announced that six people involved in the robbery were arrested. The seventh arrest was announced on Sunday.

Among those arrested were former employees of CMS Info Systems and Annappa Naik, a police constable attached to the Govindapura station in Bengaluru, who is currently under suspension pending inquiry.

Sources said the suspects had spent only around Rs 1 lakh from the loot, primarily on logistics and to purchase a mobile phone costing Rs 40,000.

BWSSB sets up panel under retd IISc prof to boost reuse of treated water

Experts to steer policy, stakeholder coordination

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) is drawing up an action plan to increase the use of treated black and grey water and has constituted a committee led by a retired IISc professor and other experts to drive the effort.

According to an order accessed by *DH*, the committee will serve as an advisory and coordinating body to develop strategies, recommend technologies, and facilitate stakeholder collaboration for sustainable water management.

Senior BWSSB officials said the panel will promote dual plumbing in apartments and commercial buildings, work with industry bodies to boost the sale and reuse of treated water, develop Nature-Based Solutions (NBS), engage with startups, and recommend emerging technologies and best practices for efficient water resource management.

Committee member Vishwanath M said discussions will soon begin with apartment complexes, construction firms and other stakeholders. "There is significant potential for reuse of treated water," he said.

The committee is chaired by S Mohan Kumar, Professor (retired), IISc. Other members include Dr Hoysala Chanakya HN, Chief Research Scientist (retired), IISc; Vishwanath S of Biome Trust; four BWSSB officials; and representatives from KPMG, WELL Labs, Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI), and the Bangalore Apartments' Federation (BAF).

Board opens doors of its sewage treatment plants to startups

BENGALURU, DHNS: For the first time, the BWSSB has opened the doors of its sewage treatment plants (STPs) to private companies, especially startups that are working on next-generation water recycling technologies.

The initiative transforms the BWSSB's treatment plants into real-time research platforms, allowing startups to test technology under actual field conditions. "It also offers a practical environment to understand treatment economics, infrastructure challenges and the commercial feasibility of recycled water," the board said in a statement.

BWSSB Chairman Ram Prasath Manohar said that the initiative marks a new chapter in the city's effort to drive innovation from within Bengaluru's own ecosystem. "Bengaluru's water challenges can be addressed through the ingenuity of its own innovators. By providing physical space and operational access within its plants, the BWSSB aims to strengthen circular water management and move the city closer to long-term water self-reliance," he said.

As the first project under this programme, Boson Whitewater has been permitted to set up operations inside the Kadubeesanahalli wastewater treatment plant. The company will install its advanced purification systems at its own cost, while the BWSSB will facilitate access to raw wastewater and support the process of connecting the treated water to potential buyers.

"This zero-investment model for the board ensures that research advances without financial burden on public infrastructure. Through Boson's pilot, the city will immediately gain access to nearly 70,000 litres of high-quality treated water per day," the BWSSB said.

With Rs 3,100-cr shortfall, GBA to go after tax defaulters

BENGALURU, DHNS

With property tax collections lagging behind the annual target, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has directed its five city corporations to identify top defaulters and expedite recovery of dues.

Munish Moudgil

At a virtual review meeting on Monday, Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao instructed officials to map properties with the highest outstanding dues and launch measures to recover pending tax without delay. He also asked corporations to trace properties and individuals currently outside the tax net and bring them under the property tax system.

Special Commissioner (Revenue) Munish Moudgil said the five corporations have set a target of Rs 6,700 crore in property tax for the year. However, only Rs 3,533 crore has been collected so far, which is barely over half the target.

Data presented during the meeting shows: 24,000 property tax revision cases are pending, amounting to nearly Rs 170 crore, and around 22,000 defaulters owe a total of Rs 598 crore.

To accelerate recovery, each corporation has been instructed to prepare a list of 100 revision cases and 100 major defaulters in every division. Moudgil said revenue inspectors and revenue collectors would be given clear targets and warned that commercial properties may be sealed wherever necessary to ensure recovery.

Corporation commissioners Rajendra Cholan, Pommala Sunil Kumar, Ramesh DS, Ramesh KN, and Dr Rajendra KV attended the meeting, along with additional and joint commissioners (Revenue).

Blaze at Jayanagar corporation office; two trapped in lift rescued

BENGALURU, DHNS: Firefighters rescued two people trapped in a lift after a blaze broke out at the city corporation office in Jayanagar 4th Block at South Bengaluru on Monday.

Officials said the fire and emergency services control room received a call at 10.10 am. Firefighters and bowsers were rushed to the spot.

"The fire was successfully doused after the power supply was disconnected. No casualties were reported. Two people were inside the lift. They were rescued by our officers. They are safe," a senior firefighter told *DH*.

Firefighters rescue a man stuck inside the lift.

A press release by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) said Krishnegowda, who was trapped in the lift, was rescued, while Arun Prasad of the Minor Irrigation Department was given first aid and later admitted to Bangalore Hospital for medical examination. Both were inside the lift.

The city police have registered a case and launched an investigation.

"Prima facie, it appears that the fire was triggered due to a short circuit. A detailed investigation has been launched to ascertain the cause," an investigator said.

GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao, Commissioner KN Ramesh, and additional commissioners visited the site.

"No damage was found to the building or offices during the inspection. However, the electrical duct was found damaged due to a short circuit. A team comprising officials from the South City Corporation, Bescom, and fire and emergency services has been formed to conduct a detailed investigation into the exact cause of the electrical accident and to submit a report," the release said.

City corporation officials remained on-site and, as a precautionary measure, the entire building's power supply has been disconnected. All shops and offices within the complex have been temporarily closed to allow for a complete inspection and repair of the electrical line, the GBA said.

Central Bengaluru to get more paid parking

BENGALURU, DHNS: Motorists who have long enjoyed free roadside parking across key corridors in central Bengaluru may soon have to start paying, with the Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC) initiating the process to introduce paid parking across several busy stretches.

Among the roads where parking will no longer be free include: Indiranagar 80 feet and 100 feet road, Ejipura Main Road, and Magrath Road, among others.

The corporation plans to outsource the collection of parking fees by floating a tender. It expects an annual revenue of about Rs 9 crore.

Some of the stretches that are currently under the paid-parking scheme will also be part of this new tender. That includes Brigade Road (MG Road) to Rex Theatre, Wood Street, Castle Street, Langford Road to Nanjappa Circle, Church Street (MG Road), St Mark's Road, Museum Road (Post Office) to MG Road, Lavelle Road, Kasturba Road, and Cambridge Road.

The move is expected to irk motorists who have accustomed to parking free of charge on some of these stretches. Traders worry that it may deter customers, particularly in nightlife and shopping hubs like Church Street, Brigade Road, and Lavelle Road.

The plan is in line with the Parking Policy 2.0, whose goal is to discourage the use of private vehicles given the metro connectivity to these stretches.

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SWR extends tender deadline for Vande Bharat sleeper depot at Thanisandra

BENGALURU, DHNS

The South Western Railway (SWR) has extended the deadline for submitting bids to develop a depot to maintain Vande Bharat sleeper trains at Thanisandra in northeastern Bengaluru.

In July, the SWR's Construction Organisation invited e-tenders for Requests For Proposal (RFPs) to establish the facility on the Engineering, Construction and Procurement (ECP) mode.

The deadline, earlier fixed at November 21, has now been revised to December 12.

The facility, estimated to cost Rs 227.94 crore, is one of five planned across India to maintain Vande Bharat sleeper trains, which are still under manufacturing. It will maintain 16-coach trains.

The site lies between the Channasandra and Yelahanka railway stations, close to the erstwhile Thanisandra railway station, that shut down a decade ago.

The Construction Organisation is also extending the MEMU shed at Banaswadi to maintain Vande Bharat seater trains and upgrading maintenance infrastructure at SMVT Bengaluru.

The shed extension will cost Rs 50 crore and the work at SMVT Bengaluru Rs 123 crore.

The Banaswadi MEMU shed, currently 270 metres long, can accommodate only 8-12-coach Vande Bharat trains. It is being extended by 130 metres. SMVT Bengaluru is getting a fourth pitline.

Bengaluru-headquartered PSU BEML has manufactured two prototype Vande Bharat sleeper trains under an order from Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, but their rollout has been delayed due to technical reasons.

A BEML spokesperson said the work was progressing at full steam, but declined to give details.

KN Krishna Prasad of the Karnataka Railway Vedike welcomed the proposed maintenance depot at Thanisandra, but sought faster construction.

He hoped that the facility would help speed up the introduction of Vande Bharat sleeper trains in Karnataka, a state that usually lags in getting premium rail services.

The interior of a Vande Bharat sleeper train under production at BEML in Bengaluru. DH PHOTO

B'luru's blue lifeline: 50 'safety islands' offer instant SOS for women in distress

These blue, telephone booth-like structures offer an immediate, hands-free link to the police command centre.
PHOTO: BENGALURU CITY POLICE

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a significant upgrade to its urban security infrastructure, the Bengaluru city police, under the Safe City project, has deployed 50 high-tech 'safety islands' across key locations.

These blue, telephone booth-like structures serve as an immediate lifeline for women and persons in distress, offering instant, hands-free connection to the police command centre.

Launched on June 30 last year, the initiative has already demonstrated its effectiveness.

The Command-and-Control Centre has responded to 188 distress calls, including 62 cases related to mobile theft, indicating rapid adoption by the public.

The safety islands are strategically installed at 50 high-footfall and high-risk zones, and their locations are now available on Google Maps.

They operate even without a mobile network or device, requiring only the press of an SOS button to activate a direct audio link to the police.

Tech-backed surveillance

The booths are equipped with advanced surveillance and communication technology to ensure rapid, targeted response.

Each island features a robust system comprising:

- **AI-enabled CCTV cameras:** Including one fixed camera and one Pan Tilt Zoom (PTZ) camera, which provides 360-degree coverage of the area.
- **Two-way communication:** Allowing real time dialogue between the person in distress and the police officer monitoring the command centre.
- **Public announcement speakers:** Used by police to provide immediate emergency instructions or crowd guidance during a crisis.

This integrated setup ensures that an Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) vehicle can be dispatched immediately, with the officer at the command centre having a live feed and audio link to the scene.

Police probe pilot for alleged sexual assault on cabin crew during stopover in city hotel

BENGALURU, DHNS: Halasuru police on Monday began investigating an alleged sexual assault on a 26-year-old cabin crew member by a chartered flight pilot at a hotel in Bengaluru.

A senior police officer said that the Begumpet police station in Hyderabad had registered a 'Zero FIR' (registered irrespective of place of crime) under relevant sections of the BNS and shared the details with the Bengaluru city police on Monday.

Preliminary investigations revealed the accused pilot allegedly dragged her and kissed her in the hotel on November 18. Police have asked the victim to record her statement in detail with the Halasuru police. Meanwhile, CCTV footage from the hotel has been collected for analysis and further action.

Two pilots and the victim were scheduled to return to Puttaparthi on November 19 and had checked into the hotel for a stopover. Later, the victim complained, the pilot took her inside a room on the pretext of smoking and sexually assaulted her.

AP student strangled; police suspect boyfriend

BENGALURU, DHNS: A college student from Andhra Pradesh was found murdered in Thammenahalli near Nelamangala, on the northern outskirts of the city, on Sunday night. Police suspect her boyfriend.

Devisri, 21, a final-year BBM student at a city college, is believed to have been strangled by Premavardhan at her female friend's house.

The couple had arrived on Sunday morning and remained there until around 8.30 pm.

While inside the house, Premavardhan allegedly strangled her, locked the room from outside, and fled.

On Monday morning, when Devisri did not respond to his calls, her brother came searching for her.

He learnt that she had stayed at her friend's place while the friend was out. When he entered the bedroom, he was shocked to find her lying dead and alerted the police.

The Madanayakanahalli police conducted a spot mahazar and shifted the body to Victoria Hospital for post-mortem. A murder case has been registered, and a manhunt has been launched for Premavardhan.

Police are investigating the motive behind the killing.

KIADB

Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION

Residential Houses

Sl. No	House Details	No of Units	Plot size in mtr.	Builtup Area in Sq.mtr
1	LIG	50	9.14 x 12.19	99.86
2	MIG	20	9.14 x 15.24	78.95
3	HIG	37	12.19 x 18.29	52.20
Total		107		

Residential Sites

Sl. No	Plots Details	No of Plots	Plot size in mtr.
1	EWS	27	6.10 x 9.14
2	LIG	130	9.14 x 12.19
3	MIG	47	9.14 x 15.24
4	HIG	13	12.19 x 18.29
5	ODD	3	
Total		220	

Registration Starts from 1st December & Last Date for Registration is 24th December 2025
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"LIVE" E-Auction is on 26th & 27th December, 2025

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Email : dotumakuru@kiadb.in
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◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Karnataka Rajyotsava: Free health checkup camp; Dinesh Gundu Rao, ST Somashekar; Guests: TN Javarai Gowda; Yeshwanthpur assembly constituency Kannada Sahitya Parishad; Sri Gururaja Sabha Bhavan, Kengeri Satellite Town; from 9.30 am onwards.

Children's Vachana Mela: Vachana Jyoti Balaga; Kalagrama, Mallathahalli; 9.30 am.

Conferral of 'Sankalp' Degree: Dr Sharanaprakash Patil; Bangalore Medical and Research Institute; 10.30 am onwards.

Dialogue on Child Safety: Guests: Chaitra, S Shivaratna, Nagasimha G Rao, TR Geetha Mala, N Jagadish; Organised by Bangalore City Police, Command Center, Venue: Ali Askar Road; 11 am.

CULTURAL

Five-day state-level drama festival: 'Swapna Siddhi' drama performance; Amareshwara Vijaya Nataka Mandali; H Thimmegowda Auditorium, Vidyaniketan Public School, Sunkadakatte; 1.30 pm.

'Rakta Ratri' mythological drama performance: Organised by Arunodaya Kalabalaga Trust; Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; from 2 pm onwards.

RELIGIOUS

'Bhagavata Dashama Skanda' religious discourse: PR Anandatirthacharya, Bhajan: Lakshmi Venkateswara Bhajan Mandali; Organised by Tirumala Tirupati Temples Hindu Dharma Prachar Parishad; Radhakrishna Temple, Sanjayanagar; 6 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Partly cloudy sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.0°C
Minimum	20.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	79%
Sunset (Nov 25)	5:50 pm
Sunrise (Nov 26)	6:22 am
Moonrise	9:40 am
Moonset	9:10 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

7th Year Remembrance

LATE SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF

Former Union Railway Minister & Senior Congress Leader

25.11.2025 marks seven years since you left us.

Your life and ideals continue to inspire each one of us.

With heartfelt reverence, we offer our sincere tribute and pray that the Almighty grants eternal peace to your noble soul.

Though seven years have passed, your memory remains ever present in our hearts.

With everlasting remembrance,
Shri C. K. Abdul Rahman Sharief
Chairman and Trustee
KNS Memorial Charitable Trust

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Labour Reforms for Aatmanirbhar Bharat

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-Prime Minister, Narendra Modi

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MLAs loyal to Shivakumar camping in Delhi

NEW DELHI, DHNS: A group of Congress MLAs, loyal to Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, are camping in the national capital and trying to meet the party's top leaders.

The party's sources said MLAs H C Balakrishna (Magadi), K M Uday (Maddur), Nayana Motamma (Mudigere), Iqbal Hussain (Ramanagara), Sharath Bachegowda (Hosakote), and Shivaganga Basavaraj (Channagiri) are staying here.

These MLAs, who came here on Sunday night, tried to meet Congress General Secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal and General Secretary (in charge of Karnataka) Randeep Surjewala. However, they failed to get an appointment, the sources said.

While these MLAs continue to stay in Delhi, another group of legislators loyal to Shivakumar is likely to come here in a day or two to demand that the party leaders make Shivakumar the chief minister. Last week, a group of MLAs met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and sought immediate change of leadership in Karnataka.

Suspense lingers as Siddu, DKS keep fingers crossed

Will abide by high command: CM; his words 'sacrosanct', says DCM

BENGALURU, DHNS

Having asserted that he would present next year's Budget, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday pointed to the Congress high command when asked if there was a midterm power-transfer agreement.

"We'll abide by the high command's decision," Siddaramaiah said in Chikkaballapur when asked about the rumoured power-sharing deal.

"If they (high command) decide I should continue (as CM), I will continue. Ultimately, whatever the high command decides, I should accept it. Shivakumar should also accept it," Siddaramaiah said.

Siddaramaiah said that the Congress high command agreed for a reshuffle of the Cabinet. "However, I suggested that we should wait until the government completed two-and-a-half years. Now, we'll follow whatever the high command decides," he said.

Earlier in the day, Home Minister G Parameshwara visited Siddaramaiah's residence and held talks. This came following Siddaramaiah's meeting with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday night. On Sunday, Parameshwara said he, too, was in the race for the CM's post.

'Father of horse trading'

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar refuted the BJP's claim of 'horse-trading' in Congress.

"Purchasing MLAs is what the BJP does. BJP is the father of horse trading," Shivakumar said. "The JD(S), which was a victim of this, is now stuck with the BJP. When the previous BJP government was formed, thousands of crores were spent," he said, referring to the defection of MLAs that led to the collapse of the JD(S)-Congress coalition in 2019.

Reacting to Siddaramaiah's statement pointing to the high command on the leadership-change issue, Shivakumar said: "What Siddaramaiah has said is *vedavakya* (sacrosanct). I respect him. He's a big asset for our party. We'll continue to work under his guidance."

Shivakumar also defended Kharge against attacks from the BJP and JD(S). The Opposition has mocked Kharge as a 'rubber-stamp president'.

"There's a system in the party. As Karnataka Congress preisdnet, I can't take unilateral decisions. Before deciding four names for the upcoming MLC elections, I had to discuss with the CM, district ministers and others. That's why Kharge said the high command would decide," Shivakumar explained.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar share a word during a programme in Shidlaghatta in Chikkaballapur district on Monday.

SIDDARAMAIAH
Chief minister

"If they (high command) decide I should continue (as CM), I will continue. Ultimately, whatever the high command decides, I should accept it. Shivakumar should also accept it.

D K SHIVAKUMAR
Deputy chief minister

"What Siddaramaiah has said is vedavakya (sacrosanct). I respect him. He's a big asset for our party. We'll continue to work under his guidance.

Naga Sadhus 'bless' DKS

A team of Naga Sadhus from Kashi (Varanasi) visited Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's Sadashivanagar residence and blessed him. One ash-clad Sadhu said he blessed Shivakumar for his well-being and so that he would become the chief minister.

ED freezes Rs 505 cr following raids on gaming company

Probe reveals company operating RMGs in foreign nations from India

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday said that it has frozen Rs 505 crore following its recent raids on a gaming company.

The ED Bengaluru Zonal office conducted the searches at four locations in Delhi and Gurugram belonging to WinZO Games Pvt Ltd between November 18 and 22, under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

WinZO Games Pvt Ltd is in the business of online real money gaming services through its app WinZO, the ED said.

"During the search, Proceeds of Crime (POC) possessed by WinZO Games Pvt Ltd, worth around Rs 505 crore, have been frozen in the form of bank balances, bonds, FDRs, and mutual funds under section 17 (1A) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002," the ED said in a statement.

ED initiated an investigation based on the FIRs filed against M/s WinZO Games Pvt Ltd and others on the grounds of cheating, blocking of accounts, impersonation, misuse of PAN, etc. It is also alleged in the FIRs that the complainants' KYC was misused by WinZO and others, and the complainants have suffered substantial loss due to fraudulent activities and cheating by WinZO and others.

"ED investigation revealed that WinZO company is operating Real Money Games (RMGs) in foreign countries such as Brazil, USA and Germany, etc, from India (on the same platform used by the Indian entity). Even after the ban of RMGs by the Union Government (wef 22/08/2025), an amount of Rs 43 crore is still held by the company without refunding to the gamers/customers.

"ED investigation further revealed that M/s WinZO Pvt Ltd was engaged in criminal activities and unscrupulous practices, i.e. customers were made to play with algorithms/software without being made aware of the fact that they are playing with software/algorithms and not with humans in real money games," the agency alleged.

According to ED, WinZO has also prevented or limited withdrawals of monies held by the customers in the wallets of M/s WinZO Pvt Ltd. M/s WinZO Pvt Ltd also generated POC in the form of bet amounts placed and lost by real customers through the unscrupulous use of such algorithms/software, which are received by the entity in its bank accounts.

"ED investigation also revealed that global operations, i.e, hosting of all types of games (including RMGs) are undertaken under a single App(application), same platform from India. It was also found that the funds by the Indian entity have been diverted to the USA and Singapore under the guise of overseas investments. The funds worth USD 55 million (Rs 489.90 crore) have been parked in their bank account in the USA (bank accounts held in the name of 'WINZO US Inc.'), which is a shell company, since all the operations and day-to-day business activities, operation of bank accounts are done from India," the agency alleged.

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16-10-1939– 22-11-2025
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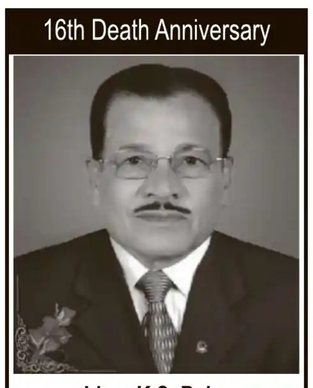
Her memory will live on in our hearts forever.
Kamdar Family- 98864 65347

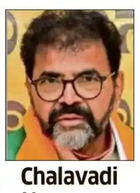
16th Death Anniversary



Lion. K.S. Babu
Founder Chairman
Maxwell Public School, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore
"You will always remain in our hearts"
Family & Maxwell Educational Trust

Chalavadi urges CM to form permanent SC, ST commission

BENGALURU, DHNS: Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanswamy urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday to form a permanent commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the state.



Chalavadi Narayanaswamy

In a letter to the chief minister dated November 24, Narayanaswamy said: "The government needs to provide solutions to the problems and the atrocities faced by SCs through a commission. This much-anticipated Constitutional body should not be ignored, and a permanent SC commission needs to be formed. Similarly, an ST commission should also be formed. This should provide Constitutional security to persons from SC and ST communities." He also sent copies of the letter to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot and Social Welfare Minister Dr H C Mahadevappa.

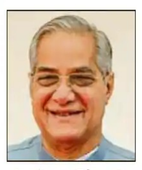
BJP mocks Kharge for his 'high command' statement

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The BJP on Monday questioned the authority of Mallikarjun Kharge as Congress president after the latter said the party's "high command" would decide on the issue of the change of leadership in Karnataka.

"Kharge ji is the party president, but who is this high command? This shows there is dynastic politics," BJP Rajya Sabha member Lahar Singh Siroya told reporters here.

Siroya said he hopes the Congress finds a solution to the issue soon in the interest of both the party and the State.

"I hope they find a solution soon, as it is not good for both Congress and the State. Given the current conduct of the Congress, it is clear that it will be in a much worse state in the coming elections. I don't know what is happening within their party, but it is certainly affecting the state of Karnataka," Siroya said.



Lahar Singh Siroya

A day after his more than an hour-long meeting with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the AICC chief told reporters outside his residence: "I have nothing to say about the developments. You (the media) are wasting your time. Whatever it is, the high command will do it. There is no need for you to worry more about it."

Reacting to this, the BJP in a post on X on Monday asked if Kharge has forgotten that he is the AICC president.

Rani Channamma varsity convocation today

BELAGAVI, DHNS: The 14th convocation of Rani Channamma University, Belagavi, will be held at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha on Tuesday. Former chairman of ISRO A S Kirankumar will deliver the convocation address. Higher Education Minister and Pro-Chancellor Dr M C Sudhakar will be present on the occasion, and Governor and Chancellor Thaawar Chand Gehlot will preside over.

Vice Chancellor Prof C M Thyagaraja informed reporters here on Monday that a total of 38,485 students will be presented with degrees, which includes 36,642 undergraduates and 1,843 postgraduates. Gold medals will be presented to 39 students and four toppers. Doctoral degrees will be presented to 28 students, he said.

RCUB has 372 affiliated colleges in Belagavi and Vijayapura districts with 1.39 lakh students.

The varsity has been provided with Rs 100 crore under Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan.

Dharam essayed lead role in Hindi remake of 'Gandhada Gudi'

PRANATI A S
BENGALURU, DHNS

Dharmendra, who died on Monday, acted in the hit Hindi remake of an iconic Kannada film starring Rajkumar and Vishnuvardhan.

'Gandhada Gudi' (1973) was remade in Hindi with Dharmendra reprising Rajkumar's portrayal of Range Forest Officer Kumar. Directed by Mohan Sehgal, it was called 'Kartavya' (1979). The film was about wildlife conservation, a theme not common in mainstream Hindi cinema of the time. It was a super hit.

When he was shooting for 'Sholay' (1975) in Ramanagara, near Bengaluru, Dharmendra and his co-stars moved from a hotel in Bengaluru to camp near the rocky hills.

The actor is fondly remembered by the people of Karnataka—his connection with the state dates back to the early days of his film career.

'Shola aur Shabnam' (1961) was shot in Premiere Studios in Mysuru, filmmaker S V Rajendra Singh Babu told *DH*.

"We would see Dharmendra around. He would frequently visit the Lalit Mahal Palace for shooting in those days. He shot in Bandipur for Chinnappa Devar's 'Maa' (1976)," Babu added. In 'Maa', Dharmendra plays Vijay, who lives in a forest and makes a living by catching animals for zoos and circuses. 'Shola Aur Shabnam' was Dharmendra's second film.

Babu, who has directed two films starring Dharmendra's wife Hema Malini, used to frequently meet Dharmendra during script discussions and preview screenings. He remembers him as a "gentleman".

"He was both a class and mass hero. 'Guddi' and 'Dharamveer' are some of his memorable films. I wanted to work with him, but could not," Babu said.

"When we shot 'Meri Aawaz Suno' (1981), a remake of Kannada film 'Antha', and 'Sharara' (1984) with Hema Malini, I used to stay in Mumbai and visit him often. He was always cheerful and never once got angry," recalled Babu. He remembered how, when producers ran into debt when a movie flopped, Dharmendra would help clear their debts.

Bollywood legend Dharmendra in conversation with Kannada matinee idol Dr Rajkumar. DH FILE PHOTO

How Sholay got Bengaluru its first girls' swimming pool

The blockbuster hit 'Sholay' helped Bengaluru get its first swimming pool for girls. The Baldwins Girls High School hosted the premiere of 'Sholay' at Galaxy theatre, Residency Road. It was a benefit show to fund the construction of a swimming pool, according to the school's newsletter published in September 1975.

The tickets were priced at Rs 50, Rs 25, Rs 15 and Rs 10, and about Rs 50,000 was raised through ticket sales, the newsletter says.

Land in Bengaluru

At the peak of his career, Dharmendra had bought several acres in Bengaluru's Electronics City for a farm, but he eventually sold it, Babu said.

Film historian K Puttaswamy remembers movies of Dharmendra and Hema Malini doing well in Bengaluru. "'Naya Zamana', 'Jugnu', 'Tum Haseen Main Jawan' and 'Sholay' were some of the films that attracted houseful shows in Bengaluru," he recalled.

Activists to urge Congress to appoint a Dalit as CM if Siddaramaiah steps down

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Rajya Chalavadi Kshemabhivruddhi Sangha and some Dalit leaders have decided to urge the Congress High Command to appoint a legislator belonging to the Scheduled Caste (SC) as chief minister if CM Siddaramaiah steps down.

Speaking on this issue, Sangha's president Mahadevaswamy M Chidaravalli said: "We have already submitted a request to AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge. We will also meet Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, AICC leaders K C Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala and insist on our demand."

He argued that Home Minister G Parameshwara had also played an important role in the Congress coming to power in the state in 2013.

"Because of his (Parameshwara's) efforts, Siddaramaiah has become the chief minister. It's ideal if the position vacated by Siddaramaiah is filled by Parameshwara. Even H C Mahadevappa has the credentials to become the chief minister."

Recollecting that Scheduled Castes (SC) had historically backed the Congress in Karnataka, Dalit Sangharsh Samithi (Ambedkarvada) State Chief Convenor Mavalli Shankar also reiterated that a Dalit leader should be made the chief minister if Siddaramaiah were to step down. Shankar pointed out that prominent Dalit leaders would reach out to Dalit and Adivasi ministers and lawmakers in the ruling Congress within 2-3 days and achieve a consensus on the issue.

"We will convey the consensus opinion to the Congress party." He also felt Mahadevappa, the social welfare minister, had "strong roots" in the Dalit movement, and urged the Congress dispensation to ensure that he is retained in the Cabinet.

MAHADEVASWAMY M CHIDARAVALLI
The Rajya Chalavadi Kshemabhivruddhi Sangha

"G Parameshwara had also played an important role in the Congress coming to power in the state in 2013.

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CHANGE OF NAME
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I, K.S RAJASHEKAR, R/a #.24, Priyanka House, Puttaiah Road, 12th main, Kamakshi Palya, Bangalore -560079 Have Changed My Name From K.S RAJASHEKAR To K.S RAJASHEKHARA vide Affidavit Dated 20/11/2025 before Notary Mohammed Hussain .K Bangalore.....

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SAGAR GUDEKOTE,** residing at Pent House 1,Galaxy B Sector 3, Near Karanjimath, Shivabasava Nagar, Belgaum, PO: Belgaum Nehru Nagar, Belagavi-590010 have changed my name to **SAGAR SHIVAPRAKASH GUDEKOTE** vide affidavit 08-10-2025 before notary S.B.Yadal, Belagavi Henceforth I shall be called as **SAGAR SHIVAPRAKASH GUDEKOTE** only

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VALERINE JAYAKER,** residing at # 7, 8th A Cross, Majunatha Nagar, Kalkere, Dooravaninagar Post, Bengaluru - 560016, have changed my name to **VALERINE JAYAKER VINCENT,** vide affidavit dated 24-11-2025 before notary S.I.Balaguru, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called as **VALERINE JAYAKER VINCENT** only.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **KHAJA HUSSAIN,** residing at No.301, Thanisandra Main Road, Tuba Layout, 4th Cross, Bengaluru - 77, declare that my name is wrongly mentioned in some documents as **KHAJA USAN**, my corret name is **KHAJA HUSSAIN**, vide affidavit dated 24-11-2025 before Notary C.V. Earappa, Bengaluru.

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Gym trainer held for robbery

BENGALURU, DHNS: The HAL police have arrested a gym trainer and five of his associates for robbing two women techies, officials said on Monday. The arrested are Mohammed Najash, a gym trainer, and his associates. The victims had invited Najash to a birthday party. After noticing victims' affluent lifestyle, Najash called his associates and the group arrived posing as food delivery agents, barged in, and claimed they were police officers. They threatened to book victims under NDPS Act and demanded Rs 5 lakh to drop the "charges". When women said they had no cash, they left with their phones and told them to pay next day.

STFs soon to handle man-animal conflicts

Experts bat for scientific research and data monitoring centre

SHILPA P
MYSURU, DHNS

The forest department has planned to set up special task forces (STF) to handle the increasing human animal conflicts (HACs) in the state, with an increase in the number of wild animals, mainly tigers, straying out of forests.

The trend has been witnessed especially in Bandipur tiger reserve (BTR). Experts feel that a long-term 'scientific research and data monitoring centre' is the need of the hour.

Three people died and one person was injured due to tiger attacks and 10 tigers were rescued in a month in Sargur and Nanjangud taluks of Mysuru district alone, on the fringes of BTR, recently.

Thirty one people died due to HACs in the state due to five tiger attacks, 20 elephant attacks, two leopard attacks and other wild animal attacks from April 1 to November 7 this year. There were 65 HAC cases in 2023-24 and 46 in 2024-25.

A file photo of elephants deployed in rescue operation in BRT Tiger Reserve.

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has stepped up efforts to address the issue.

Maintaining a harmonious relationship between people on forest fringes and department staff is a key step towards protecting the staff and animals from any harm by the people.

The special task forces will be set up at district and taluk levels, to strengthen inter-departmental coordination mechanisms in HAC situations.

Prabhash Chandra Ray, principal chief conservator of forests and chief wildlife warden of Karnataka, told *DH*: "Chief Minister Siddaramaiah approved this proposal in principle at a recent review meeting. A government order will be issued to form these task forces in a few weeks".

Wildlife experts Krupakar-Senani told *DH*, "Transient tigers have always been using areas along fringes of national parks and sanctuaries. It is just that there have been no systematic studies regarding their dispersal and foraging patterns outside national parks. Keeping this in mind, undisturbed contiguity of forests or at least intact corridors between forest patches is a must".

Another expert Sanjay Gubbi said, "The ecological carrying capacity of BTR alone is about 100 tigers. The reserve has exceeded this limit (more than 140) due to intensive habitat management practices. However, the forest habitat of Bandipur has not expanded to support this increase. Since tigers are territorial, surplus individuals are moving into agricultural landscapes and preying on wild pigs and livestock. This movement has contributed to rising human–tiger conflict. We need to halt the intensive management of tiger habitats. Allowing the ecosystem to maintain itself naturally will help bring tiger numbers back to carrying capacity".

Four killed after car falls off flyover in Kolar district

MALUR (KOLAR DISTRICT), DHNS: Four people from Chennai were killed after their car crashed into a side barrier of a flyover and fell into the underpass below near Malur on Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway Corridor in the small hours of Monday.

Hariharan (27), Gopi (38), Gautham Ramesh (28) and Jayankar (30), succumbed to injuries at R L Jalappa Hospital in Kolar. All four were working in private companies in Bengaluru. The driver, Hariharan lost control of the speeding car after dozing off. The Malur police have registered a case.

D'sthala case: Dist court grants bail to complainant-witness

MANGALURU, DHNS: The Principal District and Sessions Judge, Mangaluru, on Monday granted bail to complainant-witness who was booked on charges of perjury in connection with the Dharmasthala mass burial case.

The district legal services authority had arranged an advocate for the complainant-witness in the case to file a bail application. The order said the petitioner was ordered to be released on bail in connection with the case registered at Dharmasthala Police Station on execution of a personal bond for Rs one lakh, with two sureties for a like sum to the satisfaction of the jurisdictional magistrate concerned, subject to conditions.

The conditions include that he shall not commit a similar offence, shall not abscond, shall not tamper with the prosecution witnesses by exercising threats, inducements, or otherwise, shall not destroy the prosecution evidence, and shall make himself available to the investigating officer and cooperate during the investigation whenever his presence is required.

The bail conditions also said that he shall appear before the court regularly on all dates of hearing except when his presence is exempted. He shall furnish his residential address and inform the court if there is a change in the address. He shall provide his mobile number, WhatsApp number, and email ID (if available) and shall not leave the jurisdiction of this court without prior permission.

The court also noted that he shall not give any kind of interview or statement pertaining to the incident before social media, TV channels, or press/newspapers and in such other media. He shall mark his attendance at the police station concerned on alternative days from the date of release until the filing of the final report.

It may be recalled that complainant witness had submitted a complaint to SP office and Dharmasthala police on mass burial in Dharmasthala on July 3. Later, a case was registered at Dharmasthala police station on July 4. He had given his statements before JMFC court in Belthangady on July 11.

The government had constituted SIT on July 19. During the SIT probe, the complainant-witness had admitted that the skull he had produced was not from the body he had buried. Accordingly, the SIT officials arrested him and produced him before the Belthangady JMFC Court on August 23. He is currently lodged in the Shivamogga jail.

Cops break up Uber cab drivers' protest over 'low earnings'; 8 arrested

BENGALURU, DHNS: Police broke up a cab drivers' protest over low earnings at an Uber office in southern Bengaluru on Monday, arresting eight people and seizing six cars.

Scores of drivers had gathered at Uber Partner Seva Kendra on Hosa Road, accusing the ride-hailing firm of "differential treatment" between fleet and independent drivers.

Under Uber Fleet, individuals and companies rent out their cars to drivers who don't own any vehicles.

The protesters, organised by the Bharath Transport Association Group — an RR Nagar-based drivers' union with about 76,000 members — pledged not to leave until the company gave them an undertaking.

The company alerted the jurisdictional Parappana Agrahara police, alleging that drivers were shouting slogans and causing unrest. A police team arrived around 10.45 am.

Police told the protesters that it was illegal to hold the demonstration outside Freedom Park. When asked to disperse, the crowd allegedly "pushed and insulted" women sub-inspectors Keerthi Lakshmi and Kalavathi K R.

Led by Jayanna, 52, and Vinay Gowda, 43, the protesters refused to leave and allegedly obstructed police from performing their public duty. They allegedly asked the officers, "why did you come here?"

Police said additional police were called in, and the situation was brought under control. Eight men were arrested, and six cars were seized. Besides Jayanna and Vinay Gowda, those arrested include Jagadish, Raju, both 35; Kiran Kulkarni, 38, Ananda, 33, Imran Pasha, 36, and Malakappa, 30. Police have booked them under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) sections related to assault, negligence, endangerment and conspiracy.

Drivers' grouse

An Uber driver explained how their earnings had dropped sharply. "We don't get enough rides even if we are neary the location, and Uber bloks IDs for random reasons. On the other hand, fleet drivers get back-to-back bookings," he told *DH*.

He added that 3,000-odd drivers from Kerala had joined the Fleet programme, affecting the earnings of local drivers. A Fleet driver earns Rs 3,000 a day, of which Rs 800 goes to the vehicle owner, and roughly Rs 1,000 is spent on fuel and other expenses.

What company says

An Uber spokesperson condemned "the use of violence and intimidation by a few individuals".

"We also categorically deny any allegation of differential treatment between fleet and independent drivers. Our policies are designed to ensure fairness, transparency and equal opportunity for all, regardless of their operational model. Uber operates a zero-commission model where drivers retain 100% of fares after a nominal subscription fee."

First among the Saptapuris, Shri Ayodhya Dham, the sacred birthplace of Maryada Purushottam Prabhu Shri Ram.

On the auspicious completion of the divine and majestic Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir,

Reinstatement of the Dharma Dhwaja

the 22×11-feet emblem of faith atop the temple's spire.

by

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

In the august presence of

Anandiben Patel
Governor, Uttar Pradesh

Dr. Mohanrao Bhagwat
Sarsanghchalak, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh

Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Mahant Nrityagopal Das
President, Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust

Keshav Prasad Maurya
Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Brajesh Pathak
Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Surya Pratap Shahi
Minister, Agriculture, Agricultural Education & Agricultural Research, Uttar Pradesh

Jaiveer Singh
Minister, Tourism & Culture, Uttar Pradesh

And other dignitaries

Date: 25th November, 2025 | Time: 12:00 Noon | Venue: Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple Complex, Shri Ayodhya Dham

Temple Highlights: Shri Ram Janmabhoomi : A three-storey main temple complex spread across 2.7 acres | Flag masts and kalash installed atop six temples in the parkota (dedicated to Bhagwan Shiv, Bhagwan Ganesh, Bhagwan Hanuman, Surya Dev, Maa Bhagwati, Maa Annapurna) and Sheshavatar | Temples in the Sapt Mandap dedicated to Maharishi Valmiki, Maharishi Vashishtha, Maharishi Vishwamitra, Maharishi Agastya, Ram devotee Nishadraj, Mata Shabari and Rishi Patni Ahilya | Sant Tulsidas Mandir, along with statues of Ram devotee Jatayu and squirrel | Panchvati spreads over 10 acres, with a 3.5 km boundary wall, trust office, guest house, auditorium and more | Comprehensive amenities for devotees, pilgrims and visitors

Kaam Damdaar-Double Engine Sarkar

▶ LIVE TELECAST DD NEWS & Youtube.com/DDNEWS

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Centre creating hurdles for Yettinahole project: DKS

SHIDLAGHATTA (CHIKKABALLAPUR DISTRICT), DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, also the water resources minister, on Monday accused the Centre of creating hurdles for the Yettinahole project.

"The twin districts of Kolar and Chikkaballapur supply fruits and flowers to the state. The farmers of the parched districts are carrying out farming by using the groundwater drawn from 2,000 feet. Ministers from the districts - Krishna Byre Gowda, K H Muniyappa and M C Sudhakar - are pressuring the govt to get Yettinahole water by 2027. Our government is also making sincere efforts to implement the project.

"But the Ministry of Environment and Forests is creating hurdles... If things went as per plan, the Yettinahole water would have reached Hassan and Tumakuru by now," Shivakumar said speaking at an event to mark inauguration of works.

He urged the BJP MPs and union ministers from the state to get necessary clearance from the Centre.

Shivakumar said that filling up lakes and providing drinking water to people of the state is the sixth guarantee of the Congress government.

Woman killed in tiger attack near Mudumalai Tiger Reserve

GUNDLUPET, DHNS: A woman was killed in a tiger attack at a village under the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve limits, adjoining the Bandipur Tiger Reserve Forest in the taluk, on Monday.

Nagiyamma (61) of Mavanahalla village under Masinagudi panchayat limits of Gudalur, Nilagiri district, Tamil Nadu, is the deceased.

It is said that Nagiyamma was herding sheep on the revenue land in the village when the tiger attacked her. When the people screamed after sighting the tiger, it dragged the body to a nearby waterbody.

According to sources, the head was separated from the torso. The Forest Department personnel are camping at the village and have initiated steps to trace the tiger.

The body has been shifted to the medical college in Ooty for postmortem, according to officials.

Ties improve as India & Canada...

FTA, from Page 1

The negotiations were relaunched in March 2022. However, within just over a year it was paused again after the then Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alleged a potential Indian link to the killing of Nijjar. New Delhi has rejected the allegation.

As per the Canadian prime minister's office statement, the proposed CEPA would encompass goods, services, investment, agriculture and agri-food, digital trade, mobility, and sustainable development. The two countries have agreed on terms of reference for the proposed negotiations.

"The strengths of Canada and the strengths of India together can become a force multiplier for businesses and investors, and I think the recent meetings that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Mark Carney have had, including the one very recently at the G20 summit, clearly gave a direction for the future of the Canada-India relationship," Goyal said at an event organised by the Indo-Canadian Business Chamber.

Goyal said the proposed CEPA would strengthen investor confidence and provide a robust framework for addressing issues between the two countries based on mutual respect.

Yettinahole: Govt in spot for changing compensatory afforestation land

MoEF panel asks for action-taken report on violation

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

There seems to be no end to the troubles caused by the violations in the execution of the Yettinahole project, with the state government finding itself in a spot for changing 34.42 acres of land earlier identified for compensatory afforestation (CA).

As per the law, agencies utilising forest land have to provide equal extent of land. Accordingly, land was identified in Challakere taluk, Chitradurga district, in 2015, and the same was approved. However, the state government in July 2016 sought to change it to the land in Arasikere taluk, Hassan district, as per the request of the user-agency, the Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited (KNNL).

The state government in August 2016 again stated that the user-agency has agreed to stick to the previously proposed CA land in Chitradurga district. Based on this, the regional committee of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) recommended final (stage II) clearance for the project, with specific conditions to raise compensatory afforestation and to mutate the land as reserved forest.

The water storage facility constructed as part of phase-1 of Yettinahole project near Sakleshpur in Hassan district. DH FILE PHOTO

U-turn

The state government once again wrote to the committee in August 2025, stating that the CA land has been changed to the patch in Hassan district and requesting post facto approval for the same. This was backed by a letter by the deputy conservator of forests, stating that plantation activities have "already been carried out in the newly identified CA land" in 2019-2020.

Deliberating on the matter in the latest meeting, the committee noted that the change of land came to light while the regional office was monitoring the compliance to conditions listed in the final approval and pointed out the violation. "The non-compliance observed was communicated to the state forest department and also to the MoEF&CC along with the site inspection report of the 2nd phase of Yettinahole project, which involves diversion of further 111.0277 ha (274.35 acres)," the committee noted.

The committee noted that while the newly proposed CA land was mutated as forest in 2017 and afforestation was carried out in 2018-19, it was included as a deemed forest in 2022. It asked the government to resubmit the proposal with details of action taken to notify the land as mutated forest and evidence to show that the afforestation was carried out to comply with the conditions for the proposal.

Further, the committee noted that the matter involves violation due to excess utilisation of forest land other than that which was accorded approval. "The state government shall submit the proposal to the MoEF&CC along with the details of the excess forest land utilised, after conducting a detailed survey of the said land in the presence of the user-agency. The name of the erring officials and the detailed action taken by the state government on the said violation may also be submitted," it said.

PRR: Deadlock over as BDA begins...

BBC land, from Page 1

As many as 45 land owners have approached the court challenging the land acquisition process.

Each award order — running into 21 pages — lists the survey number, land extent, valuation, compensation methods, court directions, litigation history and the final judicial clearance that enabled the BDA to proceed with the project.

It also details six types of compensation: general award (cash compensation), consent award (higher compensation for landowners who voluntarily agree), commercial sites on a 65:35 ratio, residential sites in Dr K Shivaram Karanth Layout or new layouts along the BBC alignment, transferable development rights (TDR), or additional floor area ratio (FAR).

The award document reviewed by *DH* shows a stark difference between compensation under the general award as per the 1894 Act and the consent award.

For instance, a landowner in Bidarahalli hobli would receive Rs 5.10 crore for 37 guntas (nearly an acre) under the consent award, while compensation under the general award would be as low as Rs 16 lakh. Under the commercial-site option, the landowner is eligible for 7,733 sqft, while the residential-site entitlement depends on the prevailing guidance value. TDR appears more attractive on paper — with certificates worth Rs 8.53 crore but encashing them remains a challenge. FAR is granted as per the Revised Master Plan 2015.

The document notes that, after nearly two decades of delay due to litigation, the land acquisition process has reached a significant step, and the BDA is now empowered to disburse compensation and take possession of the land.

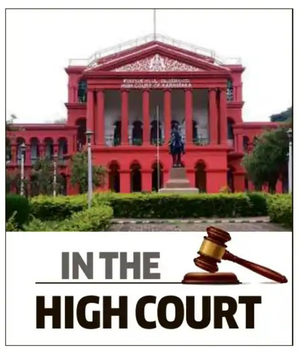
"If land-losers do not respond within the deadline, we will deposit the cash compensation in court and proceed with the acquisition process," a senior land-acquisition officer said.

Despite a wide spread of compensation options, there is a strong resistance from landowners particularly in eastern Bengaluru, stating BDA's cash compensation is less than 25% of the market value. They are also opting for residential or commercial sites as the BDA is known for delaying allotment by many years.

"The resistance is genuine as the BDA is not addressing the concerns of farmers," Krishna, whose land is also notified for the project, said. "The guidance value of the notified land has been suppressed for the last 20 years. We insist that compensation be calculated based on the guidance value of 2023, which was withdrawn," he added.

HC dismisses plea to set aside stadium stampede probe report

BENGALURU, DHNS



The Karnataka high court has dismissed the petition filed by DNA Entertainment Limited, the event management company, challenging the one-man commission inquiry report pertaining to the June 4, 2025, M Chinnaswamy Stadium stampede case, on the specific stand of the state government that no action would be taken without an opportunity of being heard.

A division bench comprising Justices D K Singh and Tara Vitasta Ganju further noted that the report cannot be set aside on mere apprehensions and assumptions.

The stampede was during the RCB victory celebrations in which 11 had died and more than 50 injured.

The state government had appointed one-member inquiry commission headed by Justice John Michael Cunha, retired judge of the Karnataka high court, under the Commissions of Inquiry Act on June 5, 2025. The commission filed its report on July 10.

The DNA argued that the entire inquiry was contrary to the principles of natural justice and contrary to the Commissions of Inquiry Act since it was neither provided with the copies of the deposition nor an opportunity to cross-examine.

On the other hand, Advocate General Shasikiran Shetty argued that the Commission was only a fact-finding body and that the right of 'reasonable opportunity' of being heard would come into play only when the Commission considers it necessary to inquire into the conduct of any person or is of the opinion that the reputation of any person would likely get prejudicially affected by the inquiry.

The division bench noted that DNA never demanded the depositions of the witnesses or opportunity to cross-examine the witnesses already examined before July 4, 2025.

The court further noted that the company, as an afterthought attempt, filed the memo on July 4, before the Commission, demanding depositions of all the witnesses and opportunity to cross-examine the witnesses, knowing fully that the term of the commission would end on July 10 and it were to submit the report on or before July 10.

"We are of the considered view that the report dated July 10, 2025, cannot be set aside on mere apprehensions and assumptions. In a similar situation and relying on a similar undertaking by the State of Goa, the Supreme Court in Goa Foundation case cited (supra) refused to quash the report of Justice Shah Commission," the division bench said.

THE TALLEST

The work on 77-foot-tall bronze statue of lord Sri Rama is in the final stages, near Canacona in Goa. The statue is being installed to mark 550th year of Gokarna Partagali Jeevottama Mutt. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unveil the statute on November 28. According to the Mutt, this is the tallest statue of Rama in the country. DH PHOTO/GANAPATHI HEGDE

Battered Maoists seek time till Feb 2026 to shun arms

Maoists, from Page 1

Anant's statement said the regional committee had endorsed the recent decision of senior Maoist leaders Sonu Dada and another central committee member Pulluri Prasad Rao alias Chandranna, who recently surrendered in Telangana, to temporarily halt armed struggle. "We intend to lay down arms and accept the government's rehabilitation and new path plan," the letter read.

However, the MMC committee sought time until February 15, 2026, citing internal organisational procedures. "As our party abides by democratic centralism, collective consultation takes time. Communication with all comrades is slow due to limited means," Anant stated. He clarified that the request had no hidden motive and falls well within the government's deadline of March 31, 2026, for eliminating Maoism nationwide.

The letter urged the three state governments to suspend anti-Maoist operations and informer activity during this period, especially during the forthcoming People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) Week. The Maoists have assured that they will not celebrate the event this year.

The Maoist representative also requested that the three governments broadcast the appeal and their response through radio. The letter further asked the state administrations to allow a meeting involving public representatives and journalists to fix a joint date for surrender and rehabilitation.

"If the security forces temporarily suspend operations until then, it will create a conducive environment for this process," the letter said. "Once we receive the governments' response, we will issue another press release announcing the date of disarmament," the letter said.

The statement also appealed to senior Maoist leaders Sonu Dada and Satish Dada to formally submit the proposal to the respective state governments and seek time for discussions. The committee has called upon journalists, YouTubers and public figures to mediate between the government and the Maoists to promote transparency in the process.

Modify Kaveri 2.0 to reflect...

Kaveri platform, from Page 1

The judge added that the present Kaveri 2.0 framework, being primarily transaction-oriented (sale, gift, mortgage and inheritance), does not adequately accommodate mutations arising from civil court decrees.

The court directed the principal secretary, revenue department, to constitute a joint legal-technical committee to design and implement the system modifications within six months and monitor periodic audits at the taluk level.

The HC said the departments of stamps and registration and revenue, in collaboration with the Centre for Smart Governance (CSG), shall introduce the new workflow within Kaveri 2.0 to upload and authenticate civil court decrees (preliminary, final, or compromise or declaratory decrees) for auto-generation of a digital mutation request (J-Slip) to the Bhoomi online platform, mapping the decree particulars to survey numbers, to create an interface to record proportionate shares in the parent RTC and add a provision to attach 11-E sketches when subdivision is sought.

The court said the software shall clearly differentiate between mutation of decree without sub-division, and sub-division based on final or compromise decree, thereby eliminating procedural confusion.

"When a civil court declares, confirms or recognises ownership rights under a declaratory, preliminary, final or compromise decree, the same shall be reflected in the parent RTC without delay. The names of all sharers and their respective extents, as determined by the decree, shall be entered in the owner's or remarks column of the parent RTC," Justice Magadum said.

The court further said that a 11-E sketch is required only when the decree-holder seeks an independent RTC or intends to alienate an undivided share or specific portion with boundaries as indicated in the final decree, and not for mere reflection of ownership in the parent RTC.

In the case at hand, the petitioner had obtained a final compromise decree, which has attained finality. The court noted that insistence on an 11-E sketch as a precondition for basic name mutation in the parent record unnecessarily delays fiscal reflection of judicially determined rights and is legally unsustainable. The court directed the authorities to effect mutation of the petitioner's name in the revenue records in accordance with the compromise decree and to issue the 11-E sketch in case sub-division is sought.

Govt colleges make coaching plea after MBBS blow

Medical seats, from Page 1

Experts even said that introduction of integrated coaching will not just help state board students excel in competitive exams, it will also put an end to the tuition mafia.

"Even now some private PU colleges offer integrated coaching in association with private tutors, but they don't allow students to attend regular PUC classes," said a principal of another private PU college.

AH Ninge Gowda, President, Karnataka State PU Lecturers Association, said the intention of the government to offer online coaching is "good" but it has "failed to yield results".

"Online mode will not reach students effectively; instead, we stress offline face-to-face mode for better results," said Gowda.

The people's star who defined versatility

People's star, from Page 1

He acted opposite seasoned women actors Nutan and Meena Kumari, contemporaries Asha Parekh and Sharmila Tagore, and newcomers like Rakhee. His pairing with co-star Hema Malini, with whom he did over 30 films, is the stuff of celluloid legend.

Three of his children — Sunny, Bobby, and Esha, and nephew Abhay Deol, are a part of showbiz, with grandsons Karan and Rajveer following in his footsteps.

Dharmendra launched films like *Betaab* (1983), *Ghayal* (1990), and *Socha Na Tha* (2005), backing filmmakers Rajkumar Santoshi and Imtiaz Ali. He dabbled in politics briefly, doing a stint as a BJP MP, and his political life remained largely uneventful.

But before he became the poster boy for hot-blooded masculinity, Dharam's career began as a sensitive romantic lead. Heroine-oriented films like *Bandini* (1963) and *Anupama* (1966) earned him a loyal female following. Even in lead roles like *Jeevan Mrityu* (1970) and *Phool Aur Patthar* (1966), and his 1969 pièce de résistance *Satyakam*, where he plays an idealistic engineer, he displayed a consistent gentleness and sincerity to his characters.

A big part of the Hindi film hero's magic is how well he works with its music. *'Pal pal dil ke paas'* and *'Aapke haseen rukh'* light up with his quiet yearning, as do romps like *'Main Jatt yamla'* and *'Koi haseena'* with his goofiness. *'Gaadi bula rahi hai'* — Anand Bakshi's life-affirming train song from *Dost* (1974) — relies entirely on Dharmendra's magnetic screen presence. Also consider the melancholic solemnity of his performance in Anupama's *'Ya dil ki suno'*.

The actor had a natural gift for comedy. His double role in *Ghazab* (1982) as the buck-toothed, slow-witted 'ghost' and his dashing twin remains among his most endearing performances. As the loveable rogue Veeru, he brings with his iconic gags a breather in the brutal world of *Sholay*. No one tapped into his soft, humorous side better than Hrishikesh Mukherjee and Basu Chatterjee. Both reimagined the brawny star as a brainy academic with a flair for mischief. The jolly botany professor masquerading as a suddh Hindi-speaking chauffeur in Mukherjee's *Chupke Chupke* is a classic; the liberal, easygoing Sanskrit lecturer smitten with an uptight chemistry teacher in Chatterjee's *Dillagi* (1978) is an underrated gem.

With the '80s came nearly two decades of endlessly angry titles like *Jeene Nahi Doonga* (1984) and *Main Intequam Loonga* (1982) and a long spell of shoddy B-grade movies. Ironically, some of these cookie-cutter actioners are Dharmendra's most profitable films, sealing his image as a massy star who still draws the crowds in small centres.

Dharmendra's gregariousness, goodwill, and reputation as an unassuming, all-heart person are well-known. These aspects strike a chord with both the industry and the public so much so that his drinking problem and scandalous romantic entanglements as a family man — an alleged link with Meena Kumari and his second marriage to Hema — are overlooked as minor blemishes.

The versatile star has stayed a favourite with contemporary filmmakers who understood his significance in Hindi cinema culture. His cameo in Sriram Raghavan's neo-noir thriller *Johnny Gaddaar* (2007) unfolds with nostalgic hattips. The actor was also a part of Raghavan's upcoming war drama *Ikkis*, due for release in December. It will feature perhaps his last screen appearance. Karan Johar cast him as a shayari-loving elder with fading memory, reunited with a long-lost love in *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani* (2023). Dharmendra serenading Shabana Azmi with Bollywood classics, including his famous song *'Aaj mausam bada beimaan'* from *Loafer* (1973), was among the film's standout moments.

In recent years, Dharmendra's social media presence became a window to his life and times. The warmth with which he interacted with fans, shared vignettes of his farm life and fitness routine, his open affection for his children, and fond recollections about colleagues and friends — many of whom are no longer around—paint a portrait of a sentimental, grateful man who aptly called himself 'aap ka Dharam'—a people's star through and through.

(The author is a freelance journalist)

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at few places over Coastal Karnataka and dry weather prevailed over South Interior and North Interior Karnataka
Forecast Nov 25: Rainfall to occur at few places over the state.

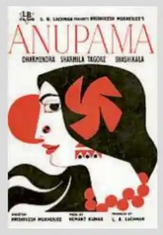
INTERIOR NORTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	30.6	19.6	00
Bidar	29.4	16.5	00
Vijayapura	30.6	18.9	00
Dharwad	30.4	18.5	00
Haveri	28.4	20.4	00
Kalaburagi	32.3	21.3	00
Raichur	31.6	19.6	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	35.5	23.2	00
Karwar	35.8	25.8	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	32.1	23.4	29

INTERIOR SOUTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	NA
Bengaluru	27.2	20	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	29.3	19.7	00
Davangere	31	20	00
Hassan	33.4	NA	00
Mysuru	29.8	19.8	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	27	17.8	00
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	26.7	9.3	00
Kolkata	29.2	18.2	00
Mumbai	32	21.4	00
Chennai	30.1	25.6	00
Pune	32	17.4	00
Hyderabad	30.2	19	00
Th'puram	28.6	23.8	15

TOP 10 movies

Sholay (1975)
The golden jubilee classic is a landmark in both Dharmendra and Amitabh's careers

Chupke Chupke (1975)
His witty turn as Parimal, the professor- turned-driver, showcased his comic brilliance



Anupama (1966)
Sensitive Ashok helps Sharmila Tagore's Uma find her voice in this tender drama

Satyakam (1969)
A deeply philosophical role exploring integrity and idealism; one of his finest performances

Seeta Aur Geeta (1972)
As Raka, he paired memorably with Hema Malini in this twin-swap comedy classic

Yaadon Ki Barat (1973)
A masala milestone, with Dharmendra as the elder brother in the 'lost siblings' saga

Pratigya (1975)
Action and slapstick combined, remembered for the hit track 'Main Jat Yamla Pagla Deewana'

Dharam Veer (1977)
A swashbuckling fantasy of lost twins, friendship and royal intrigue

Apne (2007) / Yamla Pagla Deewana (2011)
Family sagas with sons, blending emotion and comedy

Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani (2023)
As the tender grandfather, he brought grace to a new generation

TIMELESS ICON: 'Veeru' bows out; fans disappointed as family keeps last rites private

Six decades, 300 films: The curtain falls on a legend

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Legendary actor Dharmendra — one of the most handsome and commercially successful stars of the Hindi film industry—passed away in Mumbai on Monday at the age of 89.

The veteran actor was admitted to Breach Candy Hospital on October 31 for a routine check-up. However, his health deteriorated and he was reportedly placed on a ventilator. He was discharged on November 12 and shifted to his Juhu bungalow, where he continued to receive treatment in specially created ICU-like facilities.

He is survived by his wives, Prakash Kaur and Hema Malini, and six children — sons Sunny Deol and Bobby Deol, and daughters Vijeeta and Ajeeta from his first wife, and Esha and Ahana from his second wife.

His mortal remains were taken to the crematorium at Vile Parle in Mumbai, where the last rites were performed in the presence of family members and members of the film fraternity. The family has not yet released an official statement.

Many fans expressed disappointment that the Deol family had kept the last rites private, leaving them unable to offer tributes or catch a glimpse of the actor, whose career spanned over six decades. However, members of the film industry said that the family's privacy at a time of grief must be respected.

Dharmendra Deol
1935-2025

Dharmendra, born Dharmendra Kewal Krishan Deol on December 8, 1935, into a Punjabi Jat family in Nasrali in Punjab's Ludhiana district, later moved to Sahnewal and studied at Government Senior Secondary School in Lalton Kalan, Ludhiana.

Known for his versatility, good looks, charm and magnetic screen presence, Dharmendra appeared in more than 300 films. Apart from acting, he ventured into film production through his banner, Vijayta Films, which launched the careers of his sons Sunny and Bobby Deol.

Beyond cinema, Dharmendra also served as a Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha from Bikaner (2004-2009), representing the BJP.

Dharmendra with his sons Sunny Deol and Bobby Deol.

YEARS OF STARDOM

1935: Born Dharam Singh Deol on December 8 in Punjab's Phagwara.

1958: Wins Filmfare "New Talent" contest.

1960s – The Rise

1960: Debut in Dil Bhi Tera Hum Bhi Tere.

1970s – Peak stardom

1971: Anand (iconic supporting role opposite Rajesh Khanna).

1972–73: Superhits like Seeta Aur Geeta, Jugnu, Yaadon Ki Baaraat.

1975 – Sholay Era
Played the iconic Veeru in Sholay.

1980s – Established action & family hero
The Burning Train (1980), Alibaba Aur 40 Chor (1980), Naseeb (1981).

1990s – Production ventures
Turned producer and launched sons Sunny and Bobby.

2000s – Select appearances

2004 – Joined politics and was elected as BJP MP from Bikaner.
Yamla Pagla Deewana (2011).

2012 - Government recognition .
Conferred Padma Bhushan.

2020s – Legacy
Continued to stay active in special appearances, public events

> People forget films easily. People should remember you despite the lack of any biography or biopic.

The He-Man who became a heartbeat

ASHISH PANDEY
BENGALURU, DHNS

Some lights never fade. They brighten the world around them and then move on to another sky. Dharmendra — the man who made India laugh with abandon, cry with tenderness, and believe in the beautiful madness of love — was one such light, destined to glow forever.

Born in 1935 in Nasrali, a small village in Punjab's Ludhiana district, Dharmendra arrived in Bombay carrying nothing but dreams in his eyes and an unshakable determination in his heart. A man destined for cinema, his journey was itself a cinematic tale. From his debut in *Dil Bhi Tera Hum Bhi Tere* (1960) to becoming a towering figure who redefined the Hindi film hero, he inspired generations to believe that even with empty hands, one could still grasp the world.

His association with the phrase 'He-Man of Bollywood' never fully captured his essence. Dharmendra was far more; he was the beating heart of a generation. When he debuted in 1960, the industry already had towering names such as the tragedy king Dilip Kumar, the evergreen Dev Anand and the showman Raj Kapoor. Yet Dharmendra quickly became the face of a charming, handsome and strong hero who could glide through romance, comedy, tragedy and action with such ease that it all felt real.

This was the same Dharmendra who, as Veeru in *Sholay* (1975), taught us that friendship could be bigger than life itself. "Yeh dosti hum nahi todenge" (We will not break this friendship) was not just a line, it became an oath of friendship for generations. Ask anyone, and they will tell you: between Jai and Veeru, Veeru was always their first choice as a friend.

Dharmendra with Hema Malini in 'Sholay'.

Dharmendra in 'Dharam Veer'.

The man who made us laugh while threatening from atop a water tank also revealed the quiet fire of *Satyakam* (1969), where he whispered truths about integrity and pain.

Then there was another Dharmendra, who neither made us laugh nor confronted society with truths, but gently and beautifully stole hearts. As Ashok in *Anupama* (1966), he spoke in silences that felt like poetry; his gaze, deeper than words, was enough to convey love. And when he quipped in *Chupke Chupke* (1975), "Hum botany ke professor hain, romantic literature ke nahi" (I am a botany professor, not of literature), romance was already his inseparable prop.

From *Phool Aur Patthar* (1966), *Bandini* (1963), *Guddi* (1971), *Mera Gaon Mera Desh* (1971), *Dream Girl* (1977), *Dost* (1974) to *Charas* (1976), Dharmendra delivered magical performances. In each, he spoke a language no script could teach. It was the language of the heart, of honesty and of timeless warmth.

In *Phool Aur Patthar*, he played a man rough on the outside but tender within—a true reflection of himself. The rawness he brought to *Mera Gaon Mera Desh* spoke for all of us. The handsome charmer with an infectious smile in *Dream Girl* and *Shalimar* won hearts everywhere. His films were never just entertainment, they were emotions in motion.

With his captivating screen presence, he could hold strength, laughter and tenderness together in the same frame. It's easy to picture him teasingly declaring, "Kutte, main tera khoon pee jaaunga!" before breaking into that boyish, infectious laugh that never left his face.

The curtain may have fallen, but every frame of Dharmendra's cinema keeps him alive. "Yeh dosti hum nahi todenge..." — not today, not tomorrow.

The passing of Dharmendra Ji marks the end of an era in Indian cinema. He was an iconic film personality, a phenomenal actor who brought charm and depth to every role he played
Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

His unparalleled contribution to cinema over nearly seven decades will always be remembered with respect and love.
Rahul Gandhi, Congress leader

He never forgot his roots and he would talk about it openly. He was, as they say, a man of the earth and he remained very close to his real self... I didn't see any change in him with stardom and popularity
Sharmila Tagore, actor

A personality in totality an era of 'He Man/Star' has gone. My first 'Hero'; People's Hero' in the film industry is no more. It is an irreparable, irreplaceable loss to all of us; the entire film industry. Strength to the family, friends, well wishers; fans in these traumatic times. Shanti
Shatrughan Sinha, actor

From the silver screen to Parliament

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

After ruling the big screen for decades, Dharmendra changed course and stepped into the world of politics in 2004.

He contested the 2004 Lok Sabha elections as a BJP candidate from Bikaner, Rajasthan, and won. His popularity and charm helped him secure a victory over Congress leader Rameshwar Lal Dudi by 60,000 votes.

However, Dharmendra's foray into politics was short-lived. His tenure was marred by low attendance and less engagement on the floor of the House.

"I won't say coming into politics was a mistake, but, yes, an actor should not come into politics as it divides the audience and general acceptance among fans. An actor should always remain an actor," Dharmendra had said in 2008.

While he did not go back to politics, both his son Sunny and wife Hema Malini fought Lok Sabha elections on BJP tickets. Like his father, Sunny never went back to politics after his 2019 foray. But Hema Malini won from Mathura three times in a row.

Hema Malini had said that he was not too happy with the idea of her joining politics, but she wanted to challenge herself. Dharmendra, however, lent her his support. He also campaigned for Sunny in 2019.

During a campaign for Sunny, Dharmendra said he had come 'to speak from the heart, not to give speeches'." "I do not give speeches, I just talk to people. What is in a speech? I am not a politician," he said.

Dharmendra campaigns for his son Sunny Deol, a BJP candidate from Gurdaspur Lok Sabha seat. PTIFILE PHOTO

'Emotional toll'

At a public event in Ludhiana in 2010, the actor expressed regret over his political foray.

"I was dragged emotionally into the field. The day I agreed, I went to the washroom and banged my head into the mirror ... Politics is something I never wanted to do. Nobody has done the amount of work which I have done for the people of my constituency, Bikaner, till date," he said.

In 2020, Dharmendra urged the government to resolve the farmers' problems. "I request the government... please quickly find a solution to the farmers' problems... the number of corona cases is on a rise in Delhi... it is painful," he had posted on X.

However, he later deleted the post, which led to criticism from many social media users.

When one user suggested he deleted the post owing to pressure, Dharmendra replied, "I felt sad by remarks like these, and hence deleted my tweet. You can abuse me to your heart's content; I am happy that you are happy. I am sad for my farmer brothers. The government should find a solution fast. Nobody is listening to us."

Fans garland a photo of late actor Dharmendra outside a crematorium where his rites took place in Mumbai. REUTERS

Actor Aamir Khan arrives to attend the funeral of veteran actor Dharmendra. PTI

Veteran actor Amitabh Bachchan arrives to attend the funeral. PTI

'Ground rules are changing': Khurshid on diplomatic drift

INTERVIEW

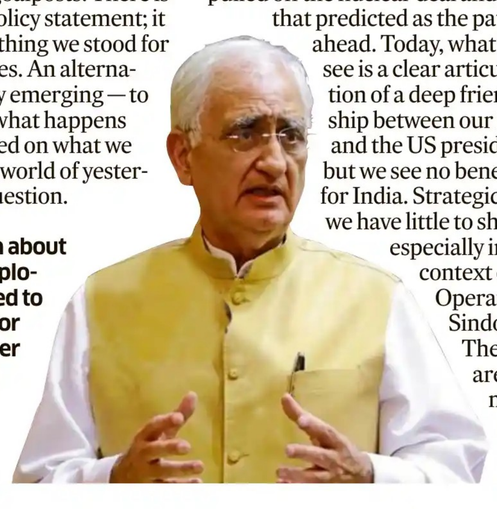
With his new book 'India's Tryst With The World', veteran Congress leader **Salman Khurshid** makes a case that India's diplomacy has been saffronised. In a conversation with *DH*'s **Amrita Madhukalya**, he speaks about what needs to change on the foreign affairs front. Edited excerpts:

The book carries one of the last pieces written by former PM Manmohan Singh, who says that India must be seen as a "liberal democracy", and that our pluralism gave us an appeal among democracies such as the US and countries in Europe, in contrast to China. Do you think we are doing that?

Those of us in public life in India are conscious that the ground rules are changing. Political circumstances have shifted the goalposts. There is no clear, stated policy statement; it reneges on everything we stood for over many decades. An alternative view is clearly emerging — to what extent will what happens in India be dragged on what we saw in the liberal world of yesteryears is the big question.

You have spoken about "personalised diplomacy" that has led to several awards for the prime minister over diplomatic gains. Please elaborate.

If I wanted to take an extreme example, our relationship with the US — what it was at the peak of Manmohan Singh's tenure, when he pulled off the nuclear deal and what that predicted as the path ahead. Today, what we see is a clear articulation of a deep friendship between our PM and the US president, but we see no benefits for India. Strategically, we have little to show, especially in the context of Operation Sindoor. There are major problems.



Both you and co-editor Salil Shetty speak of the saffronisation of the diplomatic core of India. How has that affected us?

There is one word for it — hypocrisy. Look at our position with the Arab world. One sour point was when a BJP spokesperson said something about the Holy Prophet of Islam. The government kept the person away from public attention. But do they think differently about Islam when abroad? You can't simply stop at the border and think it will not go beyond.

Do you feel that, unlike the PM's carefully crafted agendas when he travels abroad, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is seen in universities, but not in strategic meetings?

He (Rahul) likes to communicate with young people, scholars, experts, etc. The problem is that every time he spends a few days abroad, someone from the BJP says that he's on a holiday. No, he's working. When you are living in a globalised world, your ability to communicate is very important.

The neighbourhood, including Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh, had shared good relations with India traditionally. Now, things are a little strained.

Our relationships with our neighbours cannot be based on strict mathematical reciprocity; they are smaller nations with limited capacity. If we want a higher profile in the world, we should have a stronger profile in our neighbourhood. We, as traditional leaders, must not rest on past laurels; we must start a new conversation.

India Gate protest: 22 sent to judicial custody

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Delhi Police on Monday told a court here that a group of protesters arrested for allegedly using pepper spray on police personnel during a demonstration at the India Gate over pollution raised slogans hailing slain Maoist leader Madvi Hidma.

The police have registered two different FIRs — one at Kartavya Path police station against six protesters and the other at Sansad Marg police station against 17 people.

After the accused were produced before two magisterial courts, 22 were sent to judicial custody. One person was sent to observation home till his age is verified in the case.

Cops claim pro-Hidma slogans raised

During the proceedings, the investigating officer told the court that the arrestees were raising slogans hailing Madvi Hidma, a top Maoist leader who was killed in an encounter earlier this month. The defense counsel said that at least three students (protesters) were tortured in police custody while being interrogated.

The court noted that according to Delhi Police, a group of people were protesting at C-Hexagon, India Gate, over "the death of Naxalite Madvi Hidma and pollution".

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

A tech push to land administration

With the Supreme Court suggesting ways to modernise the country's land records and registration system, the government has an opportunity to spearhead an important reform. The apex court has underlined reliability, transparency, and efficiency in land dealings and suggested the use of blockchain technology towards meeting these objectives. It has sought an examination of the proposal by the Law Commission, probably because most of the land-related issues are pegged to legal provisions. Hearing a case from Bihar where legal stipulations prevented a land-owner from selling his asset, the Court struck down certain provisions in the Bihar registration rules. These provisions had made property registration conditional upon land mutation, restricted the owner's freedom to sell the property, and empowered authorities to refuse registration. The Court used the case to highlight the deeper "structural" flaws in the land administration system.

Property ownership and transfer in India, the Court noted, are still governed by colonial-era statutes such as the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, and the Registration Act, 1908, which rely on the registration of documents rather than titles. This creates a "dichotomy between registration and ownership" and, by providing only presumptive ownership, places a "substantial burden" on the buyer to manually verify title ownership histories. The Court recommended blockchain technology, which would replace the existing system with a distributed digital ledger to record all transactions of property, as a potential solution. This shift will help create a clear digital record of all individual transactions and updates, reducing the scope for fraud in the form of illegal claims, unauthorised sales, duplicate ownership, and undisclosed liabilities such as loans and mortgages. Blockchain technology can be made part of the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme.

SC's backing for blockchain presents an opportunity to fix a registration system vulnerable to fraud

This is not the first time that a call for reform in the land records and registration system has been made. The system has been plagued by issues that call for measures beyond incremental corrections. It is for the legal experts and technologists to study the suggestion. Land disputes account for about 66% of civil cases filed in the country. They cause wastage of money and delay judicial processes. Clear land records and easy procedures are essential for business and the economy. India's ranking is 154 among 190 countries in ease of registering property. Complicated procedures and the lack of clarity in land records also continue to be a major source of corruption. An overhaul is imperative; the onus is on the government to consider the proposal with the intent it demands.

Road safety must not be on clearance sale

The Karnataka government's decision to once again offer a 50% discount on unpaid traffic fines is a misguided policy that undermines the very foundation of road safety. The latest scheme, valid from November 21 to December 12, covers unpaid police e-challans and decades-old RTO violation fees. This is the fifth such discount since 2023, reinforcing the impression that traffic enforcement in the state is negotiable. The government argues the move will help clear the long-pending backlog and offer relief to motorists. But it appears to have lost sight of the fact that a penalty is meaningful when it acts as a deterrent – fines work only when they hurt. That is precisely why the Motor Vehicles Act was amended in 2019 to substantially increase penalties and curb dangerous road behaviour. By repeatedly placing a discount sticker on reckless driving, the government is effectively diluting the intent of that reform, normalising violations, and putting public safety up for sale.

Habitual offenders now know they simply need to wait for the next round of concessions. Traffic violations have been reduced to a periodic clearance sale, sending the wrong message in a state grappling with rising vehicular indiscipline. These 'amnesty' schemes may not be new, but they must be rare exceptions rather than routine measures if the law is to retain its authority. When such discounts become frequent, penalties lose their sting and compliance becomes optional. Worse, the scheme is unfair to law-abiding citizens. Those who pay their fines promptly and in full are made to feel penalised for their honesty, while persistent violators are rewarded for delaying payment. Such concessions erode public trust, weaken enforcement, and encourage a cynical view of the law as something that can always be bargained down. Critics also point out that the scheme prioritises short-term revenue over meaningful, long-term reform in enforcement, driver education, and licensing.

In times that warrant stronger enforcement, Karnataka's traffic fine discounts risk weakening deterrence

Karnataka's recurring discount scheme is indefensible against the backdrop of India's dismal road safety record. In 2024, the country recorded 4.73 lakh accidents and 1.70 lakh deaths – an average of 465 fatalities every day. Over-speeding remains the single biggest killer, and the most affected age group is 18-45 years. The country has pledged to halve road crash deaths by 2030 under the Stockholm Declaration, but the current trend shows it is nowhere close. If Karnataka is serious about saving lives, it must stop treating penalties as flexible. Traffic fines cannot be a seasonal sale, and safety cannot be achieved when violations are perpetually on discount.

FUTURE OF WORK

New labour codes: Promise of reform, with caveats

Social protection and ease of compliance are big takeaways, but skilling and investment need to be prioritised

AJIT RANADE

India's major economic reforms were spurred by a foreign exchange crisis. It was the summer of 1991 when foreign exchange reserves went to nearly zero. An emergency loan from the IMF was taken, and a slew of reforms were initiated. Exchange rates, import duties, and banking were deregulated, and Foreign Direct Investment was permitted. The biggest bang reform was the end of the license raj in manufacturing and industrial production. Economic growth picked up, and foreign investment poured in. The IMF loan was repaid in less than two years. The stock market and capital markets took off. Ten years later, a second generation of reforms was unleashed in the telecom and power sectors. This, too, led to remarkable growth and dynamism. To this day, we are reaping the harvest of the telecom revolution, which is still unfolding.

The economy is now more than ten times bigger than in 1991. India is a global software powerhouse. But one big promise of the 1991 reforms remains unfulfilled – an exponential growth in the manufacturing sector. It did grow, but only at the GDP's pace. The share of manufacturing in India's GDP is roughly the same in 2025 as in 1991, around 16-17%. The aspiration is to reach at least 25% as per the National Manufacturing Policy, the Competitiveness Project, and even Make in India. But manufacturing is stubbornly stuck, and as a result, industrial employment also has not taken off. Formal employment, which is covered by a contract and assures pension and health benefits, has a stagnant share of the total workforce. For India to achieve higher levels of aggregate growth and jobs with higher productivity and wages, industrial jobs must grow in a big way. We cannot achieve 8-9% growth without vigorous industrial growth.

The popular view is that archaic labour laws have held back massive industrial employment creation. Especially in labour-intensive sectors like textiles, footwear, toy-making, electronics assembly, we have not been able to build scale in manufacturing, as businesses hesitate to hire workers on a large scale. The labour reforms we needed relate not only to ease of recruitment at scale and retrenchment, but also to formalising labour markets. Since labour is in the concurrent list of the Constitution, respective state governments, too, have to be on board with the reform agenda. The unions have to be part of the consensus as well.

The Union government's ambitious, five-year journey towards reform has reached a milestone with the four Labour Codes – the Code on Wages (2019), Industrial Relations Code (2020), Code on Social Security (2020), and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (2020). These codes replace 29 central labour laws that had accumulated

piecemeal over the past seven decades. The notification marks the culmination of a reform process initiated in 2015, with years of tripartite consultation and delay due to states' rule-making responsibilities under the Constitution. This landmark reform will reduce compliance burdens, widen social protection, and make the labour market more responsive to a changing economy. The respective states must now pass their own rules and regulations to ensure the codes are fully implemented within their jurisdictions.

These codes are meant to protect labour, to provide flexibility to employers, to formalise the workforce, and to spur job creation. For employers, the new regime promises ease of compliance: a single registration, licence, and return instead of dozens; higher thresholds for layoffs and closures; and fixed-term employment enabling time-bound hiring. For workers, it offers wider protection: a national floor wage, written appointment letters, health and safety coverage, maternity and provident-fund benefits for gig, platform, and contract labour. For the State, it offers a path to formalisation: digitised e-Shram cards, portable benefits, and a unified inspection and facilitation system.

It takes more than laws

The codes try to replace the rigid dualism of India's labour market, where a small formal segment enjoys heavy protection and elite status, while the vast informal majority has none, with a continuum of graded protections linked to digital identity and compliance. This continuing and entrenched dual structure, called "casualisation of labour", has sometimes had an ugly and violent manifestation, endangering social stability and harmony too. There is also a great step to enable better participation of women in the formal workforce.

Some of the features of the reforms are that all workers must now receive appointment letters, ending informal oral contracts. There is universal social security extended to gig and platform workers, with aggregators contributing 1-2% of turnover to welfare funds. Women may work night shifts in all sectors, including mining and IT, provided safety measures are assured.

We must remember, however, that these reforms do not automatically imply a dynamic and growing labour market. Employment generation depends on far more than labour laws. The unemployment challenge arises from skills mismatch, inadequate infrastructure, rigid land markets, and policy uncertainty as much as from labour regulation. The new codes can reduce transaction costs, but cannot by themselves create demand for labour.

This is because large-scale job creation also requires (a) Human-capital development: expansion of apprenticeship programmes and skill certification; (b) improvement in infrastructure, logistics, efficient transport, reliable power, and digital networks; (c) predictable taxation, faster dispute resolution, and simplified compliance across regulatory fronts, not just labour. Without these enablers, easier hiring and firing may only formalise precarious jobs rather than expand stable employment.

Yet laws alone do not create jobs. A dynamic labour market does. And so does a workforce equipped with human capital for the 21st century. India's employment renaissance will depend on skills, investment, and productivity growth as much as on codified rights. If this reform is accompanied by parallel investments in education, skilling, infrastructure, and enterprise support, it could indeed become the cornerstone of inclusive growth.

(The writer is an economist; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Sisters in spirit

We celebrated 10 years of togetherness, evoking vibrant chaos of old Delhi

USHA GAUTAM

Recently, a group of women, ages ranging from 58 to 80, celebrated their 10th anniversary of togetherness. As you can imagine, there was a lot of nostalgic music from the Bollywood era of Rajesh Khanna and Amitabh Bachchan, and even earlier. A medley of favourites contributed by members ended with the enthusiastic stomp, stomp, clap; stomp, stomp, clap – *We will, we will rock you*. And that is what these women do. They rock.

Our impeccable host, who hails from UP but met and married a Mysuru man at JNU, epitomises our generation. Smart, intelligent women, who went to the best colleges and universities of India and carved out careers in homemaking, teaching, healthcare, government, and corporate India, standing shoulder to shoulder with their men, while making family and children the centre of their universe.

It is a life that demands sacrifice—of time, energy, and even personal ambitions, desires and freedoms. It is possible to lose sight of who we once were, deep down. But like the magic lamp of Aladdin, when this group of women gather, their inner genies are released.

The glue that holds us together is our Delhi connection. We all went to college in the capital, and many of us went to school there too. As women who grew up in middle-class Delhi in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, we share a great deal in common even though we come from varied religious and cultural backgrounds. This was the era where middle-class Indian parents were filled with the burning ideals, so poignantly expressed in Satyajit Ray films, of giving their daughters the best opportunities, similar to what they gave their sons. So alongside learning classical music or dance and how to navigate the kitchen, we were educated in convents, sent to university and given a taste of personal choice and freedom, though with the implicit understanding that parental approval was paramount.

Apart from shared values, there is also the powerful magnetism of shared experience. The shenanigans in women's hostels at Miranda House or LSR, the hustle and bustle of Lajpat Nagar, haggling for discounts on Janpath, eating *chaat* in Bengali market, being mesmerised by live music and dance performances in the hallowed auditoriums of Mandi House, swooning over Ameen Sayani's voice and his *Binaca Geetmala* countdown, eating pizza and ice cream at Nirulas, laying the first foundations of our Delhi ethnic chic at the emporia of Baba Kharak Singh Marg and iconic Fab India, exploring the world through the libraries and programmes of USIS and the British Council, learning Japanese or German or French from native speakers, and so much more. We grew up cosmopolitan in the truest sense of the word.

Aptly, the theme for our celebration was *Dilli 6*. Evoking the vibrant chaos and sizzle of not just the *galis* of Old Delhi, but of our own sisterhood. Like the famous *chaat* served there – saucy, spicy, bold, textured and coming together in an amazing explosion – ours is a kinship that is unforgettable and irresistible. *Yeh dil maange* more!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mandate safety training for delivery agents

This is with reference to 'Traffic violations by delivery agents soar in B'luru' (Nov 24). The growing number of traffic violations by delivery agents in Bengaluru is concerning. As reported recently, the data showing over 1.46 lakh violations between 2022 and 2025 clearly reflects a growing crisis on our roads. The pressure of instant delivery is forcing many riders to jump signals, ride on footpaths, and ignore safety rules, putting both themselves and other road users at risk. Instead of promoting unrealistic delivery promises, companies must redesign their systems to prioritise road safety. The police should also continue strict enforcement, along with awareness campaigns and mandatory safety training for all delivery riders. I hope the relevant authorities, delivery service companies, and policymakers take immediate steps to address this growing problem before it leads to more accidents and loss of life.
Tracy Swer, Bengaluru

End of an era

The passing of legendary Bollywood actor Dharmendra at the age of 89 marks the end of an era — a towering figure whose charisma, strength, and grace lit up Indian cinema for more than six decades. During his remarkable career, Dharmendra gave us unforgettable performances in films like *Sholay*, and *Chupke Chupke*. He was a true icon—the "He-Man" of Bollywood—equally convincing as an action hero, a romantic lead, and a warm-hearted father figure. Beyond his on-screen brilliance, he touched lives with his humility, kindness, and genuine spirit.
K Ragavan, Bengaluru

Men's mental health

This is with reference to 'Suicide higher among men than women: NCRB report' (Nov 24). It is a matter of concern that the number of men ending their lives has been steadily increasing over the last five years. The main reason for more men dying by suicide than women appears to lie in social conditioning that men must suppress their feelings. We must discard such flawed perceptions.
Nova Daniel S, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

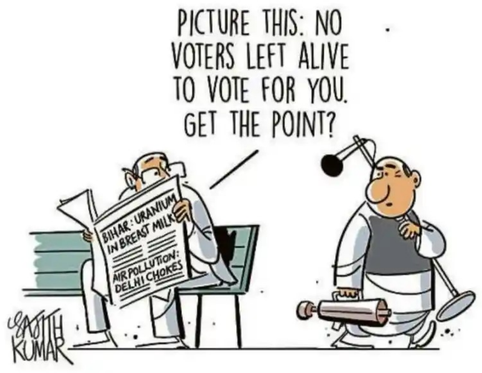
SPEAK OUT

...The descendants of the Mughals continue to destroy Assam and the country even today... We have taken a pledge that we, the workers of the BJP and the people of Assam, stand against these descendants of Mughals whose only aim is to destroy the country...

Dilip Saikia, Assam BJP chief

The scientist believes in proof without certainty, the bigot in certainty without proof.
Ashley Montagu

TO BE PRECISE


PICTURE THIS: NO VOTERS LEFT ALIVE TO VOTE FOR YOU. GET THE POINT?
BIHAR: URANIUM IN BREAST MILK
AIR POLLUTION: DELHI CHOKES
GAUTH KUMAR

IN PERSPECTIVE

Ukraine endgame: The first draft

There is new pragmatism in US's peace plan but defiant Ukraine, EU show how contentious the blueprint is

RAJOLI SIDDHARTH JAYAPRAKASH

The comprehensive 28-point plan put forth by the United States marks a significant development in efforts to resolve the fighting in Ukraine, which is nearing its fourth year. The US plan – not to be confused with the US position – outlines modalities for the transfer of territories, freezing the conflict along the current lines in other regions, security guarantees, and the prospect of reintegration of Russia into the Western-backed financial architecture. With certain parameters addressed, Russian President Vladimir Putin welcomed the plan as a framework for beginning talks to end the war.

Interestingly, citing that the plan resonates with Russia's rationale for its invasion of Ukraine, the European Union and Ukraine rejected the plan. Even so, President Donald Trump's clarification that the document is not a final draft introduces pragmatism into the discussion of bringing the war to a negotiated settlement. The way ahead is a path re-visited, and extremely fragile, with a high likelihood of hostilities resurging. In other words, half-hearted attempts to bring peace without addressing root causes or red lines will only perpetuate anxieties and prolong the conflict.

The US plan is argued to be a culmination of efforts undertaken to bring an end to the conflict. Taking cognisance of the situation in the front, with Russian forces reporting new gains, marked by the fall of a key logistics town, Pokrovsk in Donetsk region, and Russian forces making gains in Kupyansk in Kharkiv region, in Trump's calculus, it has become increasingly clear that Ukrainian forces will not be able to stall the Russian advance. Additionally, the timing is noteworthy; given its release in the wake of major oil sanctions against Russia, the plan is said to have absorbed the shocks of the sanctions in the market.

The plan can be divided broadly into four segments. First, where the document calls for the recognition of Crimea, Donetsk, and Luhansk as de facto Russian territories. The regions of Kherson and Zaporizhzhia would be frozen along the current lines; Russia would relinquish control in other regions outside of this. Second, Ukraine's military strength would be capped at 600,000 troops (at present, close to 900,000), the state would receive reliable security guarantees; however, NATO membership would be a non-starter, and NATO's expansion eastward would be halted. Ukraine, however, would be allowed to join the EU. Russia and the US would agree to extend the validity of the non-proliferation treaties and control of nuclear weapons.

Third, $100 billion of Russian frozen assets would be invested in US-led efforts to rebuild Ukraine. Frozen funds in Europe will be unfrozen, and the remainder of the funds will be invested in joint projects between Russia and the US. The plan will also cover provisions to allow Ukraine to use the Dnieper river, amnesty for the combatants, and conclusion of a non-aggression treaty for three decades between Russia, Ukraine, and the US.

The Russian perception

Putin reported the existence of the plan in Russia's national security council. He welcomed Trump's efforts in bringing peace and highlighted that the document could serve as the basis for a final peace settlement. However, the Russian President reiterated that there has been no new discussion of this text, as Ukraine has yet to agree on the draft resolution.

Despite Trump's previously growing frustration against Russia, manifested in the preceding decision to impose secondary tariffs, sanctions, and beginning deliberations on resuming nuclear testing, Russia's response has been rather moderate, unlike with the previous administration. Since Trump took office. The political contacts between the two countries increased. Even with the US now officially taking a position palatable to Moscow's interests, Russia is sceptical of Ukraine and the EU accepting this proposal.

Considering Ukraine's position on the inviolability of its territory, it was hardly surprising that it rejected the plan. The EU expressed concerns over the proposed limitations on Ukraine's military and stated that the plan required additional work, as the EU is not in agreement with the status of the territories and with how Trump proposes to use the frozen assets, the majority of which are held in Europe.

That said, unlike the previous discussions of an endgame, the current document gives the EU a greater role. With Trump's deadline approaching, even with the current opposition on fundamental questions, the narrative around the endgame has shifted. Minor agreements may be reached, while the fundamental questions pertaining to security guarantees, territorial integrity, the management of frozen Russian assets, and sanctions relief are therefore likely to be addressed only gradually, over multiple rounds of negotiations.

(The writer is a junior fellow at the Observer Research Foundation)

Fraternity: The forgotten pillar of India's Constitution

CHARAN MAHANANDA

BR Ambedkar concluded his last address to the constituent assembly on November 25, 1949, with a warning: "How long shall we go on denying equality in our social and economic life?" His apprehension remains agonisingly relevant 76 years later. Constitution Day cannot be about normatively celebrating a document-- yet another ritual in our political rhetoric. Instead, it should serve as a moral provocation, a reminder that we still have work to do; equality, liberty, and fraternity are still dreams to many Indians.

India came to realise the Constitution of India. It was the dreams of Dalit communities against untouchability, women who demanded electoral rights, workers who wanted to be treated with dignity, and religious minorities anxious about their place in a Hindu-majority nation. Their document was revolutionary: it abolished untouchability (Article 17), prohibited discrimination based on caste, religion, or gender (Article 15), and gave Universal Adult Franchise. It was well described by constitutional scholar Granville Austin as "first and foremost a social document."

But a troubling paradox persists. While constitutional values fill our national discourse, our day-to-day practices often betray them. Recent debates on citizenship question who belongs on the basis of religion – a direct challenge to the promise of equality under Article 14. Journalists and activists face prosecution under laws such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, constraining Article 19's guarantee of free speech difficult. Affirmative action, a tool to correct historical injustice, is treated not as a constitutional necessity but as a subject for political debate. These tensions disclose a deeper crisis: India's constitutional ideals are no longer compatible with majoritarianism and entrenched social inequalities.

How do we cultivate constitutional patriotism— a sense of national belonging grounded in values rather than tribes or religion? Neither laws nor rhetoric can achieve this; it entails a change in our hearts and intent. Constitutional patriotism, unlike nationalist or religious patriotism, obligates us to deliver a brand of democratic citizenship that is reflected in our everyday conduct.

Consider an example. A residents' association contemplates whether to allow street vendors near its gate. Objections usually involve concerns about security and cleanliness. But democratic citizenship, driven by constitutional values, would prompt the association to equally consider the vendors' right to livelihood under Article 21. While recognising residents' concerns about safety, one cannot undermine another human's right to earn a living. It is in such quiet, everyday choices –in workplaces and neighbourhoods-- that the spirit of our progressive Constitution shines.

We speak often of liberty. Equality is a topic of conversation. But fraternity—the constitutional principle most essential and least practised—is largely forgotten.

Fraternity was deliberately placed last in the Preamble by Ambedkar. Why? Without it, freedom becomes selfish, and liberty and equality risk becoming hollow promises on paper. Fraternity is the value we need the most, yet practise the least.

It is critical to recognise that fraternity is not mere tolerance, nor is it simply upholding diversity. It is the elusive everyday solidarity that recognises equal moral worth and rejects hierarchy. Why do we have such big celebrations of Diwali in our apartment blocks while Eid quietly sneaks by? If the normalisation and silence around these quiet omissions do not worry us, then it signals that we are far away from brotherhood. This is because fraternity demands challenge and resistance from us in the face of these omissions disguised as convenient norms.

These are embarrassing situations, as we give in to what is convenient instead of what is right. However, such moments and choices make or break our constitutional values.

Constitutional theorist Upendra Baxi reminds us that the Constitution is an unfinished business, permanently. Each generation must renew its commitment to constitutional principles and reinterpret them in the face of new challenges. This means moving beyond empty rhetoric and meaningless celebrations towards the more tedious efforts of being guided by constitutional values in our workplaces, neighbourhoods, and own homes.

The significance of Constitution Day is not that the Constitution protects us, but that we protect the Constitution, not simply against formal amendments, but against the whole erosion of the spirit of the Constitution by a system of normalised exclusion and indifference in practices.

The Constitution was the choice of enlightenment in India: equality, even human dignity, rather than heredity. It is not the power of repetition of its provisions but the willingness to be inconvenienced by its demands. To venerate it, we must do the kind of work that upholds a constitutional life, and not just a ritual reading of the Preamble.

Ambedkar realised that without social change, there would be no such thing as legal equality. He even issues an emergency precaution in that there is no democracy in the book of the Constitution as such, but the spirit of democracy is kept alive by simple acts of daily justice and bravery.

Our Constitution is seventy-six years old. We are challenged by a rather simple question: "Are we brave enough to bring the work that our founders began in our homes, our workplaces, and our neighbourhoods to the finish?"

(The writer is with the Institute of Public Health Bengaluru and has been an Urban Fellow at the Indian Institute of Human Settlements)

With the United States boycotting the summit, other nations sought to strike new deals, and some took a tougher tone with President Donald Trump

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Can the world move on without the US? G20 tried

JOHN ELIGON

President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa could not contain his laughter.

A reporter asked him to confirm reports that the United States had dropped its boycott and asked to participate in the Group of 20 summit in Johannesburg just two days before it was set to start. The South African leader barely uttered a word before breaking down in laughter, eventually composing himself and saying he had received a note from the Americans "about a change of mind."

President Donald Trump's spokesperson, Karoline Leavitt, later said that Ramaphosa's language was "not appreciated by the president or his team."

Just a few weeks ago, that sort of scolding from the White House would have set off slight panic in the South African government, and perhaps drawn an explanation from Ramaphosa for his departure from diplomatic decorum.

But with Trump boycotting the annual meeting over his contention that South Africa is persecuting its white minority, some countries were taking a tougher tone on the world's largest economy and trying to show that life can go on. That meant shaking hands, signing deals, deepening alliances and making pledges at slickly produced live events.

"The G20 should send a clear message that the world can move on with or without the US," Ronald Lamola, South Africa's foreign minister, said at a forum hosted by *Bloomberg* before the summit. "We will mark them absent and continue with the business."

South Africa declined a Trump administration request that Ramaphosa ceremonially hand over the summit to the acting ambassador for the United States, which hosts next year's G20. Ramaphosa would not hand over to a junior diplomat, the government said, adding that US officials could instead come by its Foreign Ministry later in the week for the handover.

At the summit, Ramaphosa pushed ahead with an agenda that put African interests at the fore. He broke with tradition by starting the two-day meeting with the adoption of a final declaration; such documents are normally issued at the end. And he said that the declaration had unanimous agreement among the members present—despite an objection from the foreign minister of Argentina. That country, several participants said, has championed the Trump administration's interests this year.

"We note with deep respect the views expressed by Argentina," Ramaphosa responded. "We will, with great respect, move ahead with the accepted declaration as the G20."

The final declaration included many terms that Trump officials had opposed in meetings before the summit, among them "just energy transitions," "climate change" and "gender equality."

"I think the big message coming out of this G20 is that despite the geopolitical bullying that exists, despite the power of the U.S., that countries can come together and still get stuff done," said Nabil Ahmed, a senior director at Oxfam America who attended the summit.

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil told reporters after the meeting ended Sunday that although Trump has been promoting unilateralism, "I think multilateralism will win."

"Everyone here knows that together we will be much stronger, much more competent," he said.

But for all the celebration, Lula and his fellow leaders are under no illusion that they can simply thumb their noses at Trump. The size of its economy means that the United States still has great influence over critical global issues such as renewable energy, trade and wars.

Brazil is still grappling with high tariffs Washington imposed on some of its products. South Africa is in the middle of difficult negotiations with the Trump administration to try to get its 30% tariff reduced. And the final G20 declaration is not binding. It makes a series of recommendations, and while it can influence the policy decisions of institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, the US vote has serious influence at many of those institutions.

Trump's impact could be felt on the summit's first day when Ukrainian allies quickly had to pull together a meeting on the sidelines to discuss a contentious American-backed peace plan for the war with Russia.

That was just one of the geopolitical issues that divided G20 leaders.

"We are having trouble putting new compromises on the table," President Emmanuel Macron of France said, adding that G20 negotiators found themselves struggling to come to terms "on subjects we thought were settled."

But in some ways, the United States' retreat has allowed other nations to look past their problems with each other.

It wasn't long ago that the European Union and South Africa were at odds over South Africa's friendliness with Russia after its invasion of Ukraine. But in the days leading up to the G20 summit, Ramaphosa was all smiles as he stood alongside Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission, and António Costa, the president of the European Council, during events. The European leaders announced a new minerals pact with South Africa and pledged billions of dollars toward renewable energy development in Africa.

"We are a partner that plays by the rules," von der Leyen said. "We listen to our partners."

Earlier, leaders of some of the world's most powerful countries pushed back on demands that Ukraine cede territory and limit the size of its army included in President Donald Trump's latest proposal to end the war with Russia. But they said they believed the plan provided a basis for further negotiations, according to a joint statement released after they met in Johannesburg on Saturday.

The proposal, a 28-point plan, calls for Ukrainian concessions already largely rejected by the country's president and allies. Trump gave President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine until Thursday to agree to the plan, though he said Saturday the plan was "not my final offer" and suggested that the deadline could be extended should progress be made in negotiations.

Though couched in diplomatic language, public statements from European leaders about the new proposal, including at Saturday's G20 meeting, made clear that their support for Ukraine was unwavering, whatever the pressure from the White House. In a joint statement adopted Saturday the leaders of 11 nations—including Germany, France, Britain, Japan and Canada — and the European Union said the 28-point plan included "important elements that will be essential for a just and lasting peace."

But they also made clear that they took issue with provisions of the plan that would strip Ukraine of territory and limit the size of its armed forces.

"What is at stake is Ukrainian sovereignty and European security," President Emmanuel Macron of France said Saturday, adding that European countries would work with the Ukrainians over the next two days to create a plan for the way forward.

Trump has said the next G20 summit will be held in Florida. American officials have indicated that they plan to streamline the agenda to include fewer discussion topics.

The New York Times

Normalising periods at work

ANJALI VARMA

Recently, the Karnataka government approved paid menstrual leave for women employees across sectors – including government offices, garment industries, MNCs, IT companies, and other private establishments in the state. In doing so, the state has not only acknowledged the physical and emotional toll that menstruation can take on some individuals but has also sparked a national conversation around gender-sensitive workplace policies. Intentionally or unintentionally, it has created awareness of an "issue" long swept under the carpet or wrapped in black cellophane.

The state government's decision has sparked a debate between naysayers and champions of women's health and equality at the workplace. Opponents argue that offering one day of paid menstrual leave a month may impede productivity and could adversely affect recruitment and promotion opportunities for women. Supporters, however, see it as a long-overdue step towards designing policies and frameworks that promote a more gender-inclusive workplace.

As recently as the early 2000s, conversations around menstruation and menopause were unheard of, even in supposedly liberal workplaces in India. When these conversations did occur, they were not given due thought and were often masked with ill-suited humour that only compounded the awkwardness.

It has taken India time to have open and deliberate discussions around women's health – especially at the workplace. A few progressive companies led the way by granting menstrual leave to women employees. Karnataka is not the first state to address this issue-- Bihar (1992) and Odisha (2024) have long implemented menstrual leave for government employees. Beyond workplaces, progressive schools are helping normalise the topic further, shaping a future generation of workers who view menstrual health not as taboo but as a legitimate workplace concern.

Like any well-developed policy, the menstrual leave policy must be understood in the context of current social, cultural, and economic realities. While this is a crucial benefit to women, companies must recognise that the topic is deeply sensitive and can lead to stigma and unnecessary gossip at the workplace. How, then, should companies implement this landmark policy?

While every company must approach menstrual leave in a manner suited to its own realities, several points should guide policy design:

1. Applicability – Companies must clearly define eligibility and identify who this policy is for. While intended to benefit women, it should also include trans employees who menstruate. Policymakers must also decide whether contractors are covered, keeping in mind contractors themselves may need to implement the policy.

2. Nomenclature – Though seemingly minor, terminology shapes how the policy is perceived and used. While some companies may prefer "period leave", broader terms such as "wellness leave" may work better for others.

3. Privacy and confidentiality – This is undoubtedly one of the most critical factors of implementation. Who will have access to this information? How can companies safeguard an employee's dignity? What if employees feel uncomfortable disclosing menstrual issues in a male-dominated workplace? Companies may need to adopt auto-approval systems or optional disclosure processes to ensure the privacy of the leave is protected.

4. Non-discriminatory language – Policies should be framed sensitively, without reinforcing gender stereotypes. The language should be supportive, concise and discrete.

5. Entitlement – Companies must specify whether the leave is optional and may be availed on any day of the menstrual cycle. They should also clarify that unused menstrual leave cannot be carried forward or encashed.

6. Training and sensitisation – Training should focus on reducing stigma, promoting empathy, and ensuring respectful implementation at all levels. This includes awareness programmes, manager sensitisation, privacy protocols, empathy training, and examples from Indian states and companies that have already implemented menstrual leave.

7. Inclusivity and non-discrimination – A grievance mechanism is essential to ensure no employee faces stigma, bias, harassment, or retaliation for availing menstrual leave.

The Karnataka government's decision to implement paid menstrual leave is not just a policy shift—it is a cultural milestone. While India does not yet have a nationwide law mandating menstrual leave, a state-level mandate covering the private sector is a significant step towards gender equality.

(The writer is the People and Culture Officer at the National Law School of India University)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER 1975

JP operated upon

Bombay, Nov 24
Sarvodaya leader Jaya Prakash Narayan has been operated upon today as a preliminary preparation for putting him on an artificial kidney tomorrow, according to the Jaslok Hospital authorities. In the morning Union Shipping and Transport Minister Uma Shankar Dikshit, former socialist leader Achyut Patwardhan and eminent jurist N. A. Palkhiwala called on him. Mr. Dikshit, who had earlier flown from Delhi, was sent by the Prime Minister. Mrs. Gandhi, it is learnt, has expressed concern over Mr. Narayan's health and is keeping herself apprised of his progress.

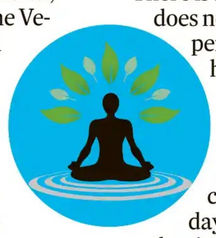
25 YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER 2000

'Pay and park' scheme launched in City

Bangalore, Nov 24
After much delay following wide-spread protests, the Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BMP) today finally introduced the 'pay and park' scheme in the City, taking the vehicle-users completely off-guard. The vehicle owners are further agitated with the contractors claiming that they cannot be held responsible for theft of vehicles parked. Disputes over parking fee to be paid and refusal on the part of the personnel manning the parking zones to assist the vehicle-users, were common on M G Road, Brigade Road and Residency Road, which come under the 'A' zone.

OASIS | SANDHYA VASUDEV

Get set on the right path to spiritual liberation



Every religion has its own sacred text to be read, understood and followed. The Vedas are called *apourusheya* as their origin cannot be dated or credited to any individual. In fact, Brahman/Almighty is known only through the Vedas (*Bhagavad Gita* 15.15), which contain the description of and praise for the creator of this universe.

While speaking of his *vibhutis*, or opulences, Krishna says in the *Gita* that He is *Saama* amongst the Vedas (BG 10.22), indicating that He and the Vedas are one.

As the Vedas are vast and complicated, a neophyte can hardly aspire to understand them. As such, upon Sage Narada's suggestion, Lord Vedavyas scripted the *Bhagavatha Purana*, pouring the essence of all the Vedas into it. This is a spiritual encyclopedia containing the leelas of Lord Vishnu in His many *avatars*, the stories of great devotees, the scriptural injunctions on ethical behaviour which are relevant even today, the description of life in *Kali Yuga* with specific mentions of the degeneration of values as *Kali Yuga* advances, and much more.

Listening to the *Bhagavatha Purana* lifts one from the throes of material miseries, and an ardent devotee experiences transcendental happiness. There is a story wherein a sinner's soul does not get redemption despite the performance of many rituals by his brother.

Finally, upon a sage's advice, the sinner's brother, Gokarna, organises the *Bhagavatha Purana* discourse over a period of a few days. At the end of the discourse, the sinner's soul attains redemption, and he is taken to heaven. The devotee today draws inspiration from such incidents and involuntarily begins to surrender to the almighty, setting him on the track towards realisation.

Just as the *Bhagavatha Purana* is an ethereal experience inviting immense spiritual blessings, so is reading, understanding and writing the divine conversation, the *Bhagavad Gita*. Krishna has said that reading the *Gita* is tantamount to performing a *jnan yajna* to Him, and the devotee who spreads the message of the *Gita* is very dear to Him.

With Gita Jayanti around the corner, one must realise that the *Gita*'s messages are for all times and that only total surrender to the almighty saves a soul, as Krishna finally says, "*sarva dharmam paritajya maamekam sharanam vraja*, and I will deliver you from all sinful reactions" (BG18.66).

'Misuse of rape law a matter of profound concern': SC quashes case

Says it must apply only in cases of genuine sexual violence or lack of consent

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday said that the offence of rape, being of the gravest kind, must be invoked only in cases involving genuine sexual violence, coercion or absence of free consent.

A bench comprising Justices BV Nagarathna and R Mahadevan allowed a plea filed by advocate Samadhan, challenging the Bombay High Court's refusal to quash a rape case registered on a complaint by a married woman alleging promise of marriage.

Finding the case to be a consensual relationship, devoid of coercion, fraud or misrepresentation, the bench noted that the court has, on numerous occasions, expressed concern over the disquieting tendency of failed or broken relationships being given the colour of criminality.

"The offence of rape, being of the gravest kind, must be invoked only in cases where there exists genuine sexual violence, coercion or absence of free consent. To convert every sour relationship into an offence of rape not only trivialises the seriousness of the offence but also inflicts upon the accused indelible stigma and grave injustice," the SC said.

FAILED RELATIONSHIPS

- Top court quashes rape case based on promise of marriage
- Warns against trend of failed relationships being given the colour of criminality
- Says rape law cannot be reduced to formality, must protect truly aggrieved

"The misuse of the criminal justice machinery in this regard is a matter of profound concern and calls for condemnation," the bench said in its judgment.

It found that the acts complained of in the present case had occurred within the contours of a relationship that was, at the time, voluntary and consensual.

"The continuation of the prosecution in such circumstances would be nothing short of an abuse of the court's machinery," the bench observed.

The appellant argued that it was inconceivable that he could have forced himself upon the complainant for so many years without any protest or objection. He alleged that the complaint was lodged only in August 2024, after he refused to meet her demand for a payment of Rs 1,50,000.

The court said that in genuine cases, consent may stand vitiated where it is established that the promise of marriage was illusory, made in bad faith, and with no genuine intention of fulfilment, solely to exploit the woman.

The court emphasised that the law must remain sensitive to genuine cases where trust has been breached and dignity violated, lest the protective scope of Section 376 of the IPC be reduced to a mere formality for those truly aggrieved.

"At the same time, the invocation of this principle must be grounded in credible evidence and concrete facts, and not in unsubstantiated allegations," it observed.

Anonymous political funding: Top court seeks Centre's reply

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from the Central government and others on a plea challenging the validity of a provision of the Income Tax Act, which allowed political parties to receive 'anonymous' cash donations below Rs 2,000.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta issued notice also to the Election Commission on a PIL filed by Khem Singh Bhati.

The court fixed the matter for hearing after four weeks.

During the hearing, the bench asked senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, who appeared for petitioner Bhati, why they had not approached the high court first.

Hansaria said the plea concerned all political parties and the funding to them across the country.

The bench agreed to hear the plea and issued notices to the poll panel, the Centre, and others, including several political parties such as the BJP and Congress.

The counsel argued that transparency in political funding has been recognised as a fundamental right of voters in the Electoral Bonds case and there is a huge discrepancy in the income tax returns and contribution reports filed by the political parties.

Hansaria further argued that the exemption from income tax received by the political parties was on the basis that they declared details of all the contributors with PAN numbers and bank details.

Cong to mark Nov 26 as 'Samvidhan Bachao Divas'

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Congress will observe November 26, the day the Constitution was adopted in 1949, as 'Samvidhan Bachao Divas' (Save Constitution Day) across the country by organising discussions on 'vote chori' (vote theft), the "dangers" posed by the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, as well as public readings of the Preamble, among other activities.

General Secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal has issued a circular to all state units asking them to organise programmes on Wednesday, emphasising that this year's observance of 'Samvidhan Bachao Divas' carries "profound significance given the unprecedented challenges" facing the country's democratic institutions and the "very spirit" of the Constitution.

Venugopal said the values enshrined in the Constitution — justice, liberty, equality, fraternity, and the protection of every citizen's rights — are under "visible strain", and the country is witnessing a growing attack on the Constitution.

50% enumeration forms digitised in TN so far

CHENNAI, DHNS: With just 10 days left for the end of the enumeration period under the SIR of electoral rolls, only about 50% of the enumeration forms (EFs) have been digitised so far in Tamil Nadu.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission (EC) has ruled out any deadline extension.

Only 327 Booth Level Officers of the total 68,467 have completed 100% of their work, even as 6.16 crore voters (96.22%) have been handed over their EFs since the exercise began on November 4.

As concerns mounted that lakhs of EFs might not be digitised before the Draft Electoral List is published on December 8, TN Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Archana Patnaik said the BLOs were racing against time to collect the forms from voters and digitise them.

"We will be able to complete the exercise on time," Patnaik told reporters here.

India, EU set to seal FTA at Jan summit

Key agriculture, alcohol market access issue resolved

NEW DELHI, PTI

With the world order looking wobbly, the European Union is eyeing to forge a broad global agenda in partnership with India and the two sides are set to firm up a free trade pact, a defence framework agreement and a strategic agenda at their annual summit on January 27.

Top diplomatic sources said that the free trade agreement to be sealed at the summit in New Delhi will be a "living document" on which work could be continued to iron out any issues that remain unresolved.

"India and the EU can set the agenda for global governance, along with France, in the absence of the US," a senior EU official said. "India is one of the big players that we work with and can rely on."

The proposed India-EU free trade agreement is expected to bring the relationship between the two sides much closer, with its positive impact being expected in a range of other sectors as well, at a time the world is witnessing trade disruptions in view of Washington's tariff policy.

It is learnt that the two sides have already resolved issues relating to agricultural market access and alcoholic beverages, and are even making progress towards convergence on clauses relating to rules of origin.

However, both sides are yet to find "landing zones" on steel, cars and the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, a tariff on carbon-intensive products such as steel and cement, as well as on certain regulatory mechanisms, the sources said.

"The global environment is more volatile and hostile, and India and the EU desire to create predictability and integrate supply chains," one of the sources said.

ON AGENDA

- The two sides are set to firm up a free trade pact, a defence framework agreement and a strategic agenda at annual summit on January 27 in New Delhi
- EU trade commissioner Maros Sefcovic is expected to visit New Delhi early in December to further advance the negotiations on the remaining chapters

The two sides have already concluded 12 chapters of the FTA and have now shifted from rounds of negotiations to continuous engagement on almost a daily basis in both New Delhi and Brussels to close the remaining eight chapters.

In September, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen reaffirmed their commitment to finalise trade deal by December. The European Union is India's biggest trade partner with bilateral trade in goods recording USD 135 billion in the financial year 2023-24. The FTA is expected to significantly enhance the two-way trade ties.

EU trade commissioner Maros Sefcovic is expected to visit New Delhi early in December to further advance the negotiations on the remaining chapters.

The summit between India and the EU will take place over one-and-a-half months after New Delhi hosts Russian President Vladimir Putin, and Brussels is expected to keenly observe the India-Russia summit with interest.

The top EU leadership will grace the Republic Day parade as the chief guest on January 26.

On busy first day, CJI Surya Kant bars oral hearing for urgent listing

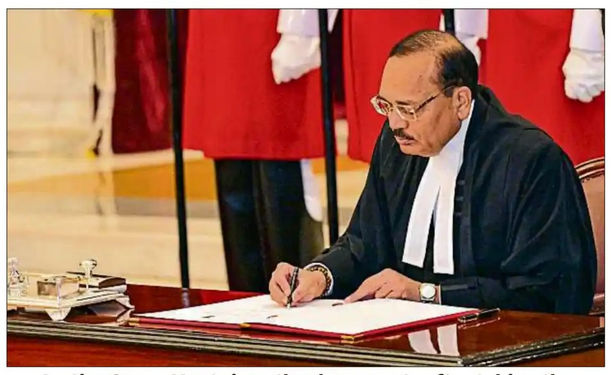
NEW DELHI, PTI

On the first day as the Chief Justice of India, Justice Surya Kant, on Monday, set a new procedural norm that mentioning cases for urgent listing must be made in writing, and oral requests will be entertained under "extraordinary circumstances" like in cases of the death penalty and personal liberty.

A bench led by Justice Kant heard as many as 17 cases in proceedings spanning around two hours on his first day as the CJI.

Justice Kant formally assumed charge as the 53rd CJI shortly after taking an oath in Hindi in the name of God at the Rashtrapati Bhawan.

Arriving at the Supreme Court for the first time as CJI in the forenoon, he paid floral tributes at the statues of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr B R Ambedkar on the court premises.



Justice Surya Kant signs the documents after taking the oath as the 53rd Chief Justice of India. PTI

He then presided over a three-judge bench, also comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Atul S Chandurkar, in the heritage courtroom number one.

As proceedings commenced around noon, the CJI pronounced a judgment on a plea filed by Himachal Pradesh against a private firm.

Just after the pronouncement, Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association President Vipin Nair welcomed the new Chief Justice in the packed courtroom.

Getting down to business, the new CJI clarified that barring "extraordinary" situations, requests for urgent listing must be made in writing through a mentioning slip rather than by oral mentioning.

"If you have any urgent mentioning, give your mentioning slip along with the cause of urgency; the registrar will examine and in those matters, if we find an element of urgency, will take it up," he said.

When the counsel pressed for the urgency in the matter, Justice Kant said, "Unless there are extraordinary circumstances involved, when somebody's liberty is involved, there is a question of death sentence, etc, then only will I list it. Otherwise, please make a mention... the registry will take a call and list the matter."

Earlier, former CJI Sanjiv Khanna had stopped the practice of oral mentioning of cases for urgent listing in the top court. However, it was revived by Justice B R Gavai, who had succeeded Justice Khanna to the post.

Justice Kant will serve as CJI for nearly 15 months before demitting office on February 9, 2027, on attaining the age of 65 years.

Indian Navy commissions indigenous 'Silent Hunter' INS MAHE

New-Gen Shallow-Water Combatant
- First of 8 Mahe-class ASW vessels
- Replaces the older Abhay-class corvettes
- Marks a new era of sleek, swift, fully indigenous coastal defence platforms

FRONTLINE COASTAL DEFENDER
- **Advanced anti-submarine arsenal:** Torpedoes, ASW rockets
- **Smart detection:** Modern sensors + communication suites
- High stealth, high speed, sustained near-sea operations
- **Mission role:** Track & neutralise submarines in shallow waters
- Compact, Agile, Enduring
- Optimised for littoral dominance

Identity & symbolism
- Named after the coastal town of Mahe
- **Crest:** Urumi – the flexible sword of Kalaripayattu
- **Mascot:** Cheetah – speed, focus, precision

Key specifications

Length: **78.8 m** | Speed: **25+** knots | Endurance: **14 days**
Displacement: **1,100** tonnes | Range: **1,800** nautical miles | Crew: **80+**

Timeline

2019: Contract signed with CSL, Kochi – 8 vessels, Rs 6,311 crore
Oct 23, 2025: Mahe delivered to the Navy
Nov 24, 2025: INS Mahe commissioned

The INS Mahe, the first of the Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, during its commissioning ceremony at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai on Monday. AFP

Flights cancelled as Ethiopian volcanic ash drifts towards India

NEW DELHI, PTI: Aviation regulator DGCA on Monday issued an advisory to airlines and airports to deal with possible disruptions due to the ash plume from the volcanic activity in Ethiopia.

Ash clouds from the recent eruption of the HayliGubbi volcano in Ethiopia are impacting flight operations, and there are reports suggesting that clouds might also be drifting towards the western parts of India.

Akasa Air, IndiGo and KLM are among the airlines that cancelled some flights due to the ash plume issue on Monday.

In a detailed advisory, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) asked airlines to strictly avoid published volcanic ash–affected areas and flight levels, adjust flight planning, routing, and fuel considerations based on the latest advisories.

Also, airlines have been asked to report any suspected ash encounter, including engine performance anomalies or cabin smoke/odour.

DGCA noted that if volcanic ash affects airport operations, then the operator concerned must immediately inspect runways, taxiways, and aprons.

SC notice to UP govt on plea against bail to murder accused

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday issued notices to the UP government and the prime accused on a plea questioning the Allahabad High Court's decision to grant bail to the accused despite his confession to murder.

The court, after hearing arguments by advocates Rajesh G Inamdar and Shashwat Anand for the petitioner, Gulabkali, mother of the deceased woman, sought responses within four weeks.

The plea claimed that during interrogation, Ashish Gautam alias Arvind Kumar, confessed to strangling the 35-year-old woman with a jute rope and concealing her body in the septic tank of his newly constructed house in Basariya, Karchhana.

The court called upon the state and the accused to explain the circumstances under which bail was granted in such a grave and shocking case.

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. PVC-R_25-26, dated: 20.11.2025. Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/C, Eastern Railway Workshop, Kanchrapara, Carriage Complex, North 24 Parganas, PO. Kanchrapara, Pin. 743145 inviting Open e-tender for the following work. **Name of work and its location:** PVC Stripping, Laying & Welding Work on Flooring of Conventional, LHB, MEMU (Trailer & Motor) and DEMU (Trailer & Motor) Coaches during POH at Carriage Complex, Kanchrapara through Works Contract on Open Tender basis for a duration of 01 (one) year. **Approx. cost of the work:** ₹ 63,22,815.40 including GST; **Tender Document Cost (TDC):** Nil; **Website from where the tender documents will be available:** Complete set of tender document is available on the Indian Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from 20.11.2025 to 12.12.2025 till 11.00 hrs; **Bid Security to be deposited:** ₹ 1,26,500/-; **Completion period of the work:** 01 (one) years. **Advertisement Period:** 20.11.2025 to 12.12.2025 till 11:00 hrs. **Offer Submission Period:**15 (Fifteen) days prior to 12.12.2025 till 11.00 hrs. **Date & Time of closing of tender:** 12.12.2025 till 11.00 hrs. **Validity of the tender:** 66 (Sixty Six) days. **Date & Time for opening of Tender:** The tender will be opened on and after 15.00 hrs. on 12.12.2025.

MISC-297/2025-26

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

Govt of Karnataka
(Water Resources Department)
IRRIGATION PROJECTS, CADA DIVISION, KALABURAGI
Address : Plot No.21,Kotanur Dhariapura Road, GDA Layout 3rd Main Road, 'B' Block, **Kalaburagi** -585102 E-mail: eecadaipglb@gmail.com

No: EE/CADA/Kal-Div/PB-1,3,5/2025-26/809 Dated: 19.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)
(TWO COVER SYSTEM)

On behalf of The Administrator, Irrigation Projects Zone, CADA, Kalaburagi, The Executive Engineer, Irrigation Project, CADA. Division Kalaburagi has invited tenders for civil work from qualified contractors, The details of which are as follows. 1) Details of Work: 2 work Ayacut Roads and 3 works surface drain (1 work reserve for ST, 2 work reserve for SC and 2 works general category) 2) Head of Account : **4705**. 3) Amount put to tender 1) **Rs.52,09,599.21+ 18% GST, 2) Rs.74,07,615.99 + 18% GST,** 4) Eligibility of Contractor : KPWD Class-III and above, 5) Time limit for access to e-procurement portal : From **21.11.2025 to 06.12.2025 up to 5.00** PM 6) Cost of Tender Application and EMD amount : As per e-procurement portal 7) The last date & time for receipt of tenders : **06.12.2025 up to 5.00 PM**, 8) Date & Time for opening of Technical bid : **08.12.2025 at 11.00 AM,** 9) Date & Time for opening of Financial bid, **: 15.12.2025 at 11.00 AM,** 10) For tender Queries Clarification: Executive Engineer, Irrigation Projects, CADA Division, Kalaburagi, 11) Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
Irrigation Projects, CADA Division,Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/767/2025-26/Deshpande Publicity

Karnataka State
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Shimoga Division, Shimoga

No.EE/PWD/Smg/AE-1/IFT-29/2025-26 Dtd: 24-11-2025

Short Term Tender Notification -2 Cover system :1st & 2nd Call

Tender invited thro' E-Procurement version-2 kppp.karnataka.gov.in for the below Indents by PWD Class- 3 & 4 above Contractors For needful information please contact Office P.No. 08182-274942 and Helpdesk Ph Nos. 080-25501216/ 080-25501227)

Tender documents downloading & submission dates: 24-11-2025 to 02-12-2025. All Contractors

3054-03-102-0-01-200 SH Bridges Maintenance

1. Shikaripura Taluk 1 Work (I.No: 28652/Call-2)

3054-04-337-1-10-200 MDR Bridges Maintenance

2. Shikaripura Taluk 1 Work (I.No: 29056)

Tender documents down loading & submission dates :

Sl.No: 01-Periods to complete the work is up to Date:31-03-2026 (Including Mansoon) Sl.No: 02-Periods to complete the work is up to: 03 Months (Including Mansoon). If there any changes in published tenders it will be publishing in E-Procurement version-2 kppp.karnataka.gov.in Website only

Sd/- EE, PW Dept Division, Shimoga

DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/100/11/1281

Office of the Commissioner
Ballari City Corporation, Ballari.
Gadigi Chennappa Circle(Royal Circle) Ballari-583101
Landline No : 08392-273479 /278168
Website : www.ballaricity.mrc.gov.in
E-mail ID: ka.ballari.cc@gmail.com

No:CCB/ENG/AMRUTH 2.0/2 /2025-26 Date: 21.11.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal Only)

Tenders Are Inivited Under 2025-26 Amrut Scheme 2.0 In Ballari City Corporation Limits Through KPP Portal, http:|/ /kppp.karnataka.gov.in As Per KW-3 & 4 Standared Document Registered / Renewed/ In The PWD Department From The Eligible Contractors For The Following Works **1) DMA/2025-26 /OW/ Work_Indent 49795**/CALL-2-**Rs.167.95 Lakhs(Others), 2) DMA/2025-26 /OW/Work_Indent 49792**/CALL-2-**Rs.62.81 Lakhs(Others), 3) DMA/2025-26/ OW/Work_Indent 49791**/CALL-2-**Rs.94.37 Lakhs(SC), 4) DMA/2025-26 /OW/ Work_Indent 49787**/CALL-2-**Rs.52.36 Lakhs(CAT-1), 5) DMA/2025-26 /OW/ Work_Indent 49788**/CALL-2-**Rs.94.37 Lakhs(Others) & 6) DMA/2025-26 /OW/ Work_Indent 49790**/CALL-2-**Rs.52.36 Lakhs(Others)**, Last Date Of Submission Of Tender On 08.12.2025 At 17.30 Hours, Opening Of Technical Bid On 10.12.2025 At 10.30 Hours, Technically Qualified Bidders Financial Bid Opened On 15.12.2025 At 11.00 Hours. Transaction Fee & EMD Should Be Remitted In KPP Portal, **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For Further Details Contact This Office During Working Days.

Sd/- Commissioner, Ballari City Corporation. Ballari.

DIPR/Ballari/695/KSMCA/2025-26

India lodges protest with China over Arunachal woman's airport ordeal

Says Arunachal is an Indian territory and its residents entitled to carry Indian passport

NEW DELHI, PTI

India has lodged a strong protest with China over the alleged detention last week of an Indian woman from Arunachal Pradesh at Shanghai airport after refusing to recognise her Indian passport as valid during a transit halt, government sources said on Monday.

Following the incident of harassment of Pema Wang Thongdok on November 21 on "ludicrous grounds", India firmly conveyed to the Chinese side that Arunachal Pradesh is "indisputably" an Indian territory and its residents are perfectly entitled to hold and travel with Indian passports.

In a series of social media posts, Thongdok said Chinese immigration officials at Shanghai airport detained her for 18 hours on the grounds that her passport was "invalid" as her birthplace was Arunachal Pradesh.

"They called my Indian passport invalid, as my birthplace is Arunachal Pradesh, which they claimed is Chinese territory," she said.

A strong demarche (a formal diplomatic protest) was made with the Chinese side, in Beijing and in Delhi, on the same day the incident took place, the sources said.

The Indian Consulate in Shanghai also took up the matter locally and extended the fullest assistance to the stranded passenger, they said.

"It was stressed that the passenger had been detained on ludicrous grounds. Arunachal Pradesh is indisputably Indian territory, and its residents are perfectly entitled to hold and travel with Indian passports," one of the sources said.

"It has also been highlighted that the actions of the Chinese authorities are in contravention of the Chicago and Montreal Conventions relating to civil aviation," it said.

At a time when both sides are working on restoring normalcy, such actions by the Chinese side introduce unnecessary obstructions to the process, the sources said.

It is learnt that Thongdok was travelling from London to Japan.

""I was held at Shanghai airport for over 18 hours on 21st November 2025 by China immigration and China Eastern Airlines. They called my Indian passport invalid because my birthplace is Arunachal Pradesh, which they claimed is Chinese territory," Thongdok said.

She claimed that she was confined to the transit area without clear explanations, access to proper food, or basic facilities. She also claimed that her passport was confiscated, and she was prevented from boarding her connecting flight to Japan despite carrying a valid visa.

Tejas crash isolated incident, won't impact deliveries: HAL

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Aviation major Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), the manufacturer of Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), said on Monday that last week's fatal crash of an LCA in Dubai was an "isolated" incident that would not impact the company's business operations and future deliveries.

"The recent incident during the aerial display at the Dubai Air Show is an isolated occurrence arising out of exceptional circumstances," said HAL in a statement to BSE and National Stock Exchange of India Limited. "We would like to assure that there is no impact on the company's business operations, financial performance or its future deliveries. The company is extending its full support and cooperation to the agencies conducting the investigation. The company will continue to keep the stakeholders informed of any material developments," it added.

The statement came on the day HAL shares tumbled over 8% during the morning trade in the wake of the unfortunate crash during an aerial display at the Dubai Air Show, killing Indian Air Force (IAF) pilot Wg Cdr Namansh Syal.

The stock tanked 8.48% to Rs 4,205.25 on the BSE. Later, shares of the firm recovered some of the lost ground and were trading at Rs 4,433, down 3.53% from the previous close. At the NSE, the stock dropped 4.13% to hit the day's low of Rs 4,405.

Anti-festival protests raise fears of fresh conflict in Manipur

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

The Sangai Festival — Manipur's most popular annual cultural festival, being organised since 2010 — has this time triggered fears of fresh conflict in the state

Hundreds of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) taking shelter in Meitei-dominated Valley in Manipur clashed with security forces for the third day on Monday as they intensified the protest against the ongoing Sangai Festival and demanded the facilitation of their return to their homes in Kuki-dominated districts.

The security forces lobbed tear-gas shells and even fired in the air as the IDPs broke barricades and clashed at Dolaithabi in the Imphal East district, trying to forcibly cross the "buffer zone" to return to their homes in the Kuki-dominated Kangpokpi district.

"The administration is organising the Sangai Festival despite our repeated protests and pleas against it. This means the situation in the state is normal now. Then, they should allow us to go back to our homes," said Sunil Meitei, a displaced person from Kangpokpi.

Sunil and many other Meitei families had to flee to the Valley soon after the Meitei-Kuki conflict began in May 2023, due to which more than 260 people have died and over 60,000 others have been displaced. The state has been under President's Rule since February this year.

As IDPs have been forcefully trying to return to their homes, security forces fear fresh conflict. "We are trying to stop them to prevent further conflict. But many are trying to cross rivers and even going out at night," an official from a Central security force told *DH*.

Kuki organisations like the Kuki-Zo Council have issued a warning against "forceful entry" into the Kuki-dominated areas, stating that there were "restrictions" on the movement of Meiteis as "coexistence under one administrative structure is not viable".

Maharashtra minister's PA arrested for 'abetting' wife's suicide

MUMBAI, PTI: A personal assistant of Maharashtra minister Pankaja Munde was arrested here on Monday on charges of abetting the suicide of his dentist wife, police said.

The accused Anant Garje was produced before a magistrate's court, which remanded him to police custody till November 27.

Police told the court that Garje's interrogation is necessary as the other accused in the case are yet to be arrested and the postmortem report is awaited.

Garje's lawyer, however, contended that the accused had voluntarily presented himself at the police station and was fully cooperating in the investigation.

Garje's wife Dr Gauri Palve (28), a dentist at civic-run KEM hospital in Mumbai, allegedly hanged herself in her flat at Worli in central Mumbai on Saturday due to a domestic dispute, nearly 10 months after their marriage, an official said.

Based on a complaint filed by Palve's father, the Worli police registered an abetment of suicide case against Garje, a personal assistant to Minister Munde, and two of his relatives.

According to the police, the couple tied the knot on February 7 this year.

In their police complaint, Palve's family alleged that Garje had an extra-marital affair, and she caught him chatting with another woman on a mobile phone.

The couple would fight over the issue, and Garje allegedly threatened his wife, police said.

Palve's uncle alleged that she did not commit suicide, but it was a case of murder. He also demanded an in-camera post-mortem and a CBI probe into the case.

Meanwhile, Rupali Chakankar, chairperson of the Maharashtra Women's Rights Commission, on Monday said the parents of Palave have expressed suspicion over their daughter's death by suicide.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

CHECK IT OUT, MR. B.!
WE'VE LAUNCHED OUR FISHING BOAT ONTO THE HIGH SEAS!!
COOL!
THAT KINDA REMINDS ME OF THE BOAT MR. WOODLEY AND I USE!
MAYBE THAT'S WHY WE HAVEN'T CAUGHT ANY FISH

Hagar The Horrible

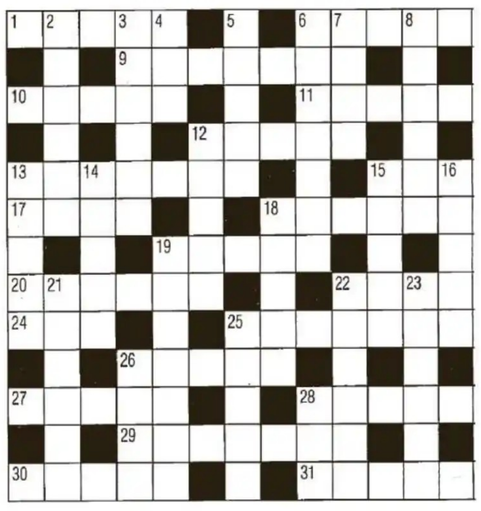
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

DO YOU THINK I'M BEAUTIFUL, CHUCK?
OF COURSE... YOU HAVE WHAT IS SOMETIMES CALLED A "QUIET BEAUTY"
YOU MAY BE RIGHT, CHUCK
I JUST WISH IT WOULD SPEAK UP NOW AND THEN!

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12295



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Source of pains in Europe (5)
6 One aspect of audience communication (5)
9 Pretend to be discerning (4,3)
10 Fathead taking a hand? (5)
11 A vegetable vessel (5)
12 Add that a little drink is more expensive (3,2)
13 Hero worshipper (7)
15 A layer of fresh enamel (3)
17 Lied shiftily about being slack? (4)
18 Having walked, do rest where possible (6)
19 Food for father's volunteers (5)
20 Ranged around a pleasant place (6)
22 Alpine tree? (4)
24 Frequently at zero feet (3)
25 Reactor designer? (7)
26 In haste, Ben goes by rail! (5)
27 Steve's cup? (5)
28 One man's motto (5)
29 Caught a silly fellow in a dole fiddle (7)
30 Servicemen may find it boring (5)
31 They're heard making turns as they fly (5)

DOWN
2 Waited to get used to the loudspeaker system (6)
3 Not liable to find much mud in a broken-down mine (6)
4 Refusal to make any change (3)
5 Can he sing only one sound note? (5)
6 Georgian girl with a twin in Maine (7)
7 Keep spinning tops (4)
8 In terrible dread, the Tory leader moved fast (6)
12 Is he next to wander around the American capital? (5)
13 Talk of fish and duck (5)
14 Ready to switch to some alternative (5)
15 Get away with a sprained ankle? (3,2)
16 Lady Guinevere's indignant refusal (5)
18 Childish version of a pork pie? (5)
19 Examination of a country girl (7)
21 A fair imitation of a romance? (6)
22 What a padre may organise for the church? (6)
23 The idea that there's not one available (6)
25 Credit the fool with being stupid (5)
26 Can climbing it make you hot, possibly feverish? (4)
28 Joined the police (3)

ACROSS
1 Go away hastily (5)
6 Pub game (5)
9 Army officer (7)
10 Vote in (5)
11 Of sound (5)
12 Gaseous element (5)
13 Knead muscles (7)
15 That woman (3)
17 Cupid (4)
18 Demure (6)
19 Involving danger (5)
20 Primary source (6)
22 Assistant (4)
24 Signal agreement (3)
25 Butter up (7)
26 Moderate coldness (5)
27 Criminal organisation (5)
28 Star sign (5)
29 Coach (7)
30 Surrendered (5)
31 Nervy (5)

DOWN
2 Shirt part (6)
3 Entry (6)
4 Floor covering (3)
5 Fixed gaze (5)
6 Refuse to comply (7)
7 Soon (4)
8 Lavatory (6)
12 Once more (5)
13 Fruit (5)
14 Compact, firm (5)
15 Regular practice (5)
16 Allude (5)
18 Art (5)
19 Boy's name (7)
21 Revolve, spin (6)
22 Clothes, garments (6)
23 Rubble (6)
25 Threshing implement (5)
26 Quote (4)
28 Allow (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12294

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 3, Ad hoc 8, Si-MO-n 10, Reply 11, C(h)ar(iot) 12, Coral 13, Peck-ham 15, C-lose 18, Oil 19, Sl-Op.-p-y 21, Out-line 22, Cart 23, P-eon 24, Ru-MP-led 26, These-s 29, EA-R 31, Sells 32, Cryptic 34, Euros 35, Lot 36, Tote-M 37, Meth-s 38, Perks.
DOWN: 1, N-ice-r 2, Work out 4, Doom 5, O-racle 6, Cello 7, CLasp 9, Mac 12, Callous 14, Hit 16, Opte-D 17, E.-yin-g. 19, Snipers 20, Scots 21, Oriel 23, Perplex 24, Resume 25, Lay 27, Her-on 28, Sleep 30, Lithe 32, Cook 33, Tot.

EASY
ACROSS: 3, Bloom 8, Seers 10, Poker 11, Pro 12, Cadet 13, Portion 15, Reset 18, Tan 19, Falter 21, Pencils 22, Hair 23, Join 24, Bring up 26, Ironed 29, Nip 31, Rates 32, Denizen 34, Vigil 35, Tie 36, Biped 37, Reply 38, Reels.
DOWN: 1, Depot 2, Trotter 4, Lean 5, Operas 6, Motel 7, Tepee 9, Err 12, Concord 14, Ian 16, Stoop 17, Trend 19, Flannel 20, Chair 21, Pivot 23, Jupiter 24, Beside 25, Gin 27, Rapid 28, Never 30, Feels 32, Dial 33, Zip.

◆SU-DO-KU-6760◆

7	3		4				5	
			5			1		9
					1	3	8	
1					4	5		7
5		7	3					2
	1	5	6					
6		3			8			
	9				5		6	8

medium

2	8	3	9	5	7	4	1	6
6	5	1	4	8	2	3	9	7
4	9	7	6	3	1	8	2	5
1	6	5	3	7	4	2	8	9
3	4	2	8	6	9	7	5	1
8	7	9	2	1	5	6	3	4
5	3	4	1	2	6	9	7	8
9	1	8	7	4	3	5	6	2
7	2	6	5	9	8	1	4	3

SOLUTION TO 6759

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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								RACK 1
A1	E1	L1	N1	T1	R1	S1		
								RACK 2
A1	I1	S1	I1	N1	G2	T1	Triple Word Score	
								RACK 3
E1	J8	B3	A1	A1	M3	U1	Triple Word Score	
								RACK 4
V4	S1	R1	E1	B3	E1	O1	2nd Letter Triple	

PAR SCORE 165-175
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

K5	N1	O1	T1	T1	Y4		RACK 1	= 18
A1	F4	F4	I1	N1	E1		RACK 2	= 36
M3	A1	I1	L1	E1	R1	S1	RACK 3	= 59
L1	A1	P3	T1	R1	A1	Y4	RACK 4	= 86
							JUDD'S TOTAL	199

PAR SCORE 130-140

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CIBHR

DARYT

RMWROA

FMLUEF

I don't miss those days.
I'm glad we're sitting all the way up here.
BABIES WERE BAWLING IN COACH, BUT THANKFULLY, BUSINESS CLASS WAS A ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ODDLY BOTCH THWART WEAKEN
Answer: Asphalt would eventually be used to pave streets, but that was still years — DOWN THE ROAD

HITORI-3214

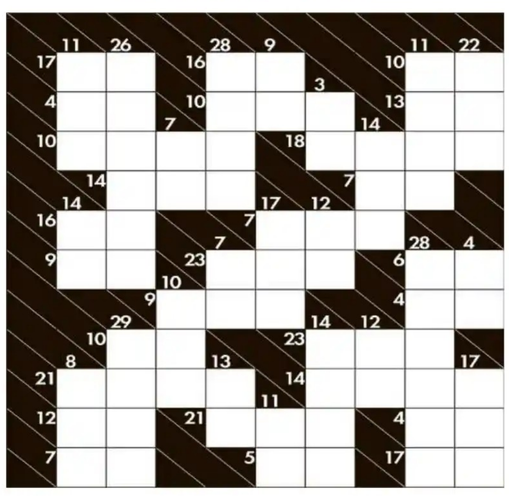
6	6	2	3	8	7	2	5
8	4	1	6	5	6	2	3
5	6	7	1	4	3	8	2
7	6	6	6	2	6	1	8
1	2	4	5	3	4	2	7
4	5	3	2	7	1	6	6
2	6	5	7	6	6	4	4
1	7	6	3	6	5	4	2

SOLUTION TO 3213

■	3	1	6	2	■	8	7
3	■	7	■	6	8	5	■
1	5	■	3	8	■	6	2
■	8	6	■	5	2	■	3
2	7	4	8	■	5	1	■
■	2	8	■	1	6	■	5
8	4	5	2	■	1	7	6
■	6	■	1	7	4	3	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3214



SOLUTION TO 3213

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3746

■		7		4			9	■
	■					1	■	
		■			1	■		
			2	5	6			
	7		4	■			1	
	5		■		■			
5	6	8				3		2
	■		7			5	■	
■					3			■

SOLUTION TO 3745

8	1	5	3	9	6	4	2	7
2	9	6	4	1	7	5	8	3
7	4	3	8	5	2	1	9	6
5	6	2	1	7	9	3	4	8
4	8	1	6	2	3	7	5	9
3	7	9	5	8	4	2	6	1
9	5	4	7	3	8	6	1	2
1	3	8	2	6	5	9	7	4
6	2	7	9	4	1	8	3	5

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Canada's new law to benefit Indian-origin families

Royal assent brings major relief for overseas families

OTTAWA, PTI

Canada has moved a step closer to modernising its citizenship-by-descent laws after a bill to amend the act received royal assent, in a move expected to affect thousands of Indian-origin families.

Bill C-3, an Act to amend the Citizenship Act (2025), has received royal assent. This marks an important milestone in making the Citizenship Act more inclusive while maintaining the value of Canadian citizenship, a news release issued by the Canadian government said on Friday.

"Once the new law comes into force, Canadian citizenship will be provided to people born before the bill takes effect who would have been citizens if not for the first-generation limit or other outdated rules of past legislation."

The first-generation limit to Canadian citizenship by descent was introduced in 2009. It means that a child born or adopted outside Canada is not a Canadian citizen by descent if their Canadian parent was also born or adopted outside Canada. This limit has created difficulties for many Indian-origin Canadians whose children were born abroad.

The law will also allow a Canadian parent born or adopted outside Canada to pass on citizenship to their child born or adopted abroad on or after the date the bill comes into force.

"Bill C-3 will fix long-standing issues in our citizenship laws and bring fairness to families with children born or adopted abroad. It will provide citizenship to people who were excluded by previous laws, and it will set clear rules for the future that reflect how modern families live. These changes will strengthen and protect Canadian citizenship," said Lena Metlege Diab, Canada's Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship.

On 19 December 2023, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice ruled that key parts of the Citizenship Act relating to the first-generation limit to citizenship by descent were unconstitutional.

CITIZENSHIP ACT

- People born before the new law takes effect – who would have been Canadian citizens if not for the first-generation limit – will now receive Canadian citizenship. This benefits many Indian-origin families whose children were born abroad and were previously excluded.

LENA METLEGE DIAB
Canada immigration minister

"Bill C-3 will fix long-standing issues in our citizenship laws and bring fairness to families with children born or adopted abroad.

A US Navy Super Hornet launches from the USS Gerald R Ford in the Caribbean Sea as Washington boosts its military posture amid tensions with Venezuela. REUTERS FILE

US labels Maduro-linked cartel a terror outfit

Ridiculous action against non-existent group: Venezuela

WASHINGTON, REUTERS

The United States on Monday formally designated Cartel de los Soles as a foreign terrorist organisation, adding further terrorism-related sanctions against the group, which it has said includes Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and other senior officials.

Venezuela's government rejected what it called a "ridiculous" US move to label the "non-existent" group a terrorist entity.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said earlier this month that his country would announce the foreign terrorist organisation (FTO) designation for the cartel's alleged role in importing illegal drugs into the US. Maduro now faces mounting pressure from President Donald Trump's significant US military buildup in the Caribbean, raising concerns that the designation could be used to justify military action. Sanctions experts, however, have noted that the statute governing the designation does not authorise such a step.

Maduro and his government have repeatedly denied any involvement in criminal activity and have accused the US of seeking regime change out of a desire to control Venezuela's vast oil reserves.

"Venezuela categorically, firmly, and absolutely rejects the new and ridiculous fabrication by the Secretary of the US Department of State, Marco Rubio, which designates the non-existent Cartel of the Suns as a terrorist organisation," Venezuelan Foreign Minister Yvan Gil said on his Telegram account, using the English translation of the group's name.

'CARTEL OF THE SUNS'

- The listing of the "Cartel de los Soles" (Cartel of the Suns) as a foreign terrorist outfit opens the door to new forms of US pressure on leftist President Nicolas Maduro.
- US alleges that the shadowy group is run by Maduro. No evidence has been made public to support the accusation.
- US forces have killed 83 people in air strikes on boats accused of ferrying drugs since September 2025.

US-backed aid company in Gaza shutters operations

JERUSALEM, AP/PTI: A controversial US- and Israel-backed company that provided aid to Gaza said Monday it would shutter operations.

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation had already closed distribution sites after a US-brokered ceasefire took effect six weeks ago in Gaza. It announced on Monday that it was permanently shutting down, claiming it had fulfilled its mission.

"We have succeeded in our mission of showing there's a better way to deliver aid to Gazans," GHF director John Acree said in a statement.

The operations of the GHF were shrouded in secrecy during its short time in operation.

3 killed in attack on Pak paramilitary HQ

PESHAWAR, PTI

At least three security personnel were killed and two others injured in a suicide attack at a paramilitary force headquarters on Monday in Peshawar, according to a senior police official.

Three suicide bombers, who attempted to storm the Federal Constabulary (FC) headquarters, were also killed in counterfiring, City Police Chief Mian Saeed said.

"One attacker detonated himself at the main gate, while the other two entered the premises. FC personnel engaged them and both were killed on the spot," Saeed added. "Two suicide explosions took place inside the FC headquarters, one at the main gate and the other near the motorcycle stand located within the premises," Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Zulfiqar Hameed said. The powerful blast at the main gate triggered panic in the surrounding residential and commercial areas, with the explosion heard from a considerable distance.

Army personnel take a position during an attack in Peshawar on Monday. AFP

Additional contingents and rescue teams rushed to the site, and security across the area was placed on high alert, officials said. According to hospital officials, five people, including three civilians, were injured in the attack.

Japan's plan to deploy missiles a dangerous provocation: China

BEIJING, PTI: The rift between China and Japan over Taiwan deepened further on Monday, with Beijing describing Tokyo's plans to deploy missiles on an island close to Taiwan as an "extremely dangerous" development that risks stoking military confrontation in the region.

Japan's deployment of offensive weapons on the south-western islands close to the Taiwan region is a deliberate move to create regional tensions and provoke military confrontation, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a media briefing here. This development is "extremely dangerous", Mao said.

US judge dismisses case against ex-FBI chief Comey

WASHINGTON, AFP: A federal judge on Monday dismissed the criminal cases brought against former FBI director James Comey and New York Attorney General Letitia James, two prominent foes of President Donald Trump.

Judge Cameron Currie threw out both cases because the prosecutor handpicked by Trump, who brought the charges, was unlawfully appointed.

Comey, 64, was charged in September with making false statements to Congress in what has been widely seen as a campaign of retribution by the president against his political opponents.

James, 67, a Democrat who successfully prosecuted Trump for fraud, was indicted the next month on one count of bank fraud and a second one of making false statements to a financial institution. Both indictments were brought by an inexperienced prosecutor, Lindsey Halligan, who was a former personal attorney to Trump.

Comey's indictment came after the US attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, Erik Siebert, stepped down after reportedly telling Justice Department leaders that there was insufficient evidence to charge him.

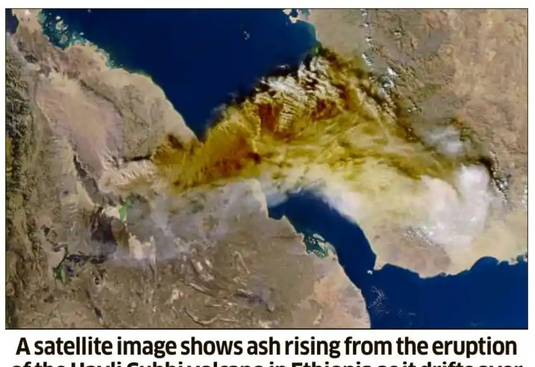
AI could be modern-day Frankenstein's monster: UN

GENEVA, AFP: The UN on Monday warned that generative AI could become "a modern-day Frankenstein's monster", with human rights emerging as the first casualty as powerful tech giants deploy the technology across the world.

UN rights chief Volker Türk said generative AI held "tremendous promise" but told the world body's Business and Human Rights Forum that its "exploitation for purely political or economic benefit can manipulate, distort, and distract". "When powerful tech giants introduce new technologies, such as generative artificial intelligence, human rights can be the first casualty," he said.

"The threats to several human rights, including privacy, political participation, free expression and work, are clear and present," he added. "Without proper safeguards and regulations, AI systems have the potential to turn into a modern-day Frankenstein's monster," he warned. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights cautioned that today's risks "could materialise into harms that undermine the promise of emerging technologies".

WORLD AT A GLANCE



A satellite image shows ash rising from the eruption of the Hayli Gubbi volcano in Ethiopia as it drifts over the Red Sea on Sunday. REUTERS

Ethiopian volcano erupts after 12,000-year dormancy

A volcano in Ethiopia's northeastern region erupted for the first time in nearly 12,000 years, sending thick plumes of smoke up to 14 kilometres into the sky, AFP reports from Addis Ababa.

The Toulouse Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre (VAAC) said on Monday that Hayli Gubbi volcano, located in Ethiopia's Afar region about 800 km northeast of Addis Ababa near the Eritrean border, erupted on Sunday for several hours. The volcano, which rises approximately 500 metres in altitude, is situated within the Rift Valley, a zone of intense geological activity where two tectonic plates converge. Ash clouds from the volcano drifted over Yemen, Oman, India and northern Pakistan, the VAAC said.

The Smithsonian Institution's Global Volcanism Program said Hayli Gubbi has had no known eruptions during the Holocene, which began around 12,000 years ago at the end of the last Ice Age. Simon Carn, a volcanologist and professor at the Michigan Technological University, confirmed on Bluesky that Hayli Gubbi "has no record of Holocene eruptions". Afar authorities have not yet responded to inquiries about possible casualties.

Malaysia to restrict social media

Malaysia plans to ban social media accounts for people under 16 starting in 2026, joining Australia and a growing number of countries pushing for tighter digital age limits for children, AP/PTI reports from Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia).

Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil said the Cabinet had approved the move as part of a broader effort to shield young people from online harm such as cyberbullying, scams and sexual exploitation. He said the government is studying approaches taken by Australia and other countries, including the possible use of electronic checks with identity cards or passports to verify users' ages. He did not specify when exactly the ban will be enforced.

Jamaican singer Jimmy Cliff, the iconic reggae star who helped transform the island's music into a global cultural phenomenon, died on Monday at the age of 81. AFP FILE

PML-N sweeps Pak by-elections

The ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) swept the by-elections held on Sunday, winning 12 out of 13 seats, PTI reports from Islamabad.

By-elections were conducted for six seats of the National Assembly and seven of the Provincial Assembly of Punjab. All NA seats were in Punjab except one in Haripur area of Khyber- Pakhtunkhwa province. The PML-N had won all seats, except for one in Muzzafargarh, which was secured by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), according to the unofficial results. The by-elections were held after the disqualification of several lawmakers from Imran Khan's party following their conviction in May 9 violence cases.

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Tender Notice No. : ELECT-CHG-25-26-ACCI, dated 20.11.2025. Open Tender, through e-Tendering in **www.ireps.gov.in** website is invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G)/Santragachi, S.E. Railway, Kharagpur Division for and on behalf of the President of India as per details mentioned below. Eligible contractors are requested to apply for the same through online only in **www.ireps.gov.in** website. No offline tender will be accepted for this tender. Please read the tender document carefully uploaded in the document section for details. **Name of work :** Escorting job of ACCI for AC coaches & ACCEA for First AC in various trains at Santragachi, Shalimar & Padmapukur Coaching Depot for two years. **Tender Value :** ₹ 6,60,09,464.84. **EMD/Bid security :** ₹ 4,80,100/-. **Tender Document Cost :** ₹ 10,000/-. **Tender closing date & time:** 12.12.2025, 11.00 hrs. Tender notice, tender document and other details are given in the **www.ireps.gov.in** (PR-871)

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar 841221

E Tender Notice
E-Tender No.: MICS-11-2025

Dy. CME/WFPS, Rail Wheel Plant, Bela acting for and on behalf of President of India invites open e-tender through Indian Railways specialized tendering portal **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed firms based on Two Packet System for the under mentioned work. **(1) Name of work with its location and completion period. : Name of Work:** Wheel Machining through outside agency for BGC, BLC & EMU Wheels **Location** : At contractor's premises **Completion Period : 12 Months. (2) Approx. cost of the work :** ₹ 5,73,19,680/- **(3) Earnest Money Deposit :** ₹ 4,36,600/- **(4) Tender/Bid closing date and time** : 22.12.2025 at 15:00 hrs. **(5) Website particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.** : For full details and submission of bid tenderer/bidder may kindly visit Indian Railways specialized tendering portal **www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderer(s)/bidder(s) are directed to remain connected with IREPS portal **www.ireps.gov.in** for updates including Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation with respect to the above tender.
Dy. CME/WFPS/Rail Wheel Plant-Bela
RWP/CPRO/Advt./2025-26/81

Office of the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, CAMPA, Jharkhand, Ranchi
Van Bhawan, Doranda-834002
e-mail : apccf-campa@gov.in, Phone : 0651-2481466 (O)

Corrigendum Notice
RFP No. 03/2025
PR No. 364921 Dated 01.11.2025
Sub.: Queries on RFP No.03/2025 for Selection of a Technical Agency for Scoping, Identification, and Assessment of Carbon Credit Opportunities in Nature Based Solutions (NBS) and Non Nature Based Solutions (Non-NBS) Sectors in Jharkhand.
Date of submission of bid is revised as following :

End date and time of submission	11th December, 2025, 01:00 PM
Date of opening of Technical bid	12th December, 2025, 01:00 PM
Date of opening of Price bid	will be communicated later.

Sd/-
Additional PCCF, CAMPA,
Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department,Jharkhand, Ranchi.
PR 366963 (Forest, Environment and Climate Changes)25-26*D

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ.
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಒಂದು ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಜಿಂಕೆವನ, ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ರಸ್ತೆ,
ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು–577102.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ:08262–295901 ಇ–ಮೇಲ್:dmkfdcckm901@gmail.com
"ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ"
KFDC/DM/CKM/A6/EXT&TRA/2025-26/492 dt:07.11.2025ರಲ್ಲಿ
2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ವಿಭಾಗದ ವಿವಿಧ ನೆಡುತೋಪುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವ ಮೆದುಮರಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ 2024–25 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಕತ್ತಾವಣೆ ಬಾಕಿ ಉಳಿದ ವಿವಿಧ ನೆಡುತೋಪುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವ ಮೆದುಮರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಡಿತಲೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಗೆ ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಸೂಚಿಸಲು ದಿನಾಂಕ:04.12.2025 ರ 17:30 ಗಂಟೆ ರವರೆಗೆ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಆಸಕ್ತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆದು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ / ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಲಿನ ವಿಳಾಸವನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಸಹಿ/–
ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು
ಕ.ಅ.ಅ.ನಿ.ನಿ., ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು.

Information & Public Relations Department, Government of Jharkhand
NIT No:1748 Dated: 22-11-2025
Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) (2ND CALL/ RETENDER)
Name of Work: Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selection of Advertising Agencies for Branding of Government of Jharkhand during the 25th Year Celebration of State Formation through Advertisement Display in Upcoming India vs South Africa ODI Match.(2nd Call).
Information & Public Relations Department, Government of Jharkhand, invites online applications against Expression of Interest (EOI) on the website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in from the eligible bidders/applicants for "Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selection of Advertising Agencies for Branding of Government of Jharkhand during the 25th Year Celebration of State Formation through Advertisement Display in Upcoming India vs South Africa ODI Match.(2nd Call) NIT No. of First Tender was: 1662 and NIT No. of Retender is 1748.
1. **TIME SCHEDULE OF EOI INVITATION**

SN	Particulars	Date	Time
1	Bid/Application Submission End Date	27-11-2025	04:30 PM
2	Bid/Application Opening date	28-11-2025	04:30 PM

PR 366996 IPRD (25-26) Sd/- **Director**

e-Auction Notice for Leasing of SLR/LVPH
e-Auction Notice No. : LEASE-KGP-25-22 Date : 24.11.2025
e-Auctions are invited by Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Kharagpur Division, South Eastern Railway for and on behalf of the President, Union of India for **Leasing of SLR/LVPHs for a period of 03 (Three) years for transportation of parcels in the trains** which are notified in the **https://www.ireps.gov.in/** website. **Category :** Parcel. **Catalogue No. :** LEASE-KGP-25-22. **Date of e-Auction :** 05.12.2025. **Auction Start Time :** 10.30 hrs. **Auction Closing Time :** 16.40 hrs. Interested parties and contractors to take note of this and go through the website as mentioned above for details of the trains and related information about the e-Auction notice. For enquiries/clarifications, if any, please contact the office of the undersigned.
(PR-874) Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Kharagpur
South Eastern Railway
We serve with a smile

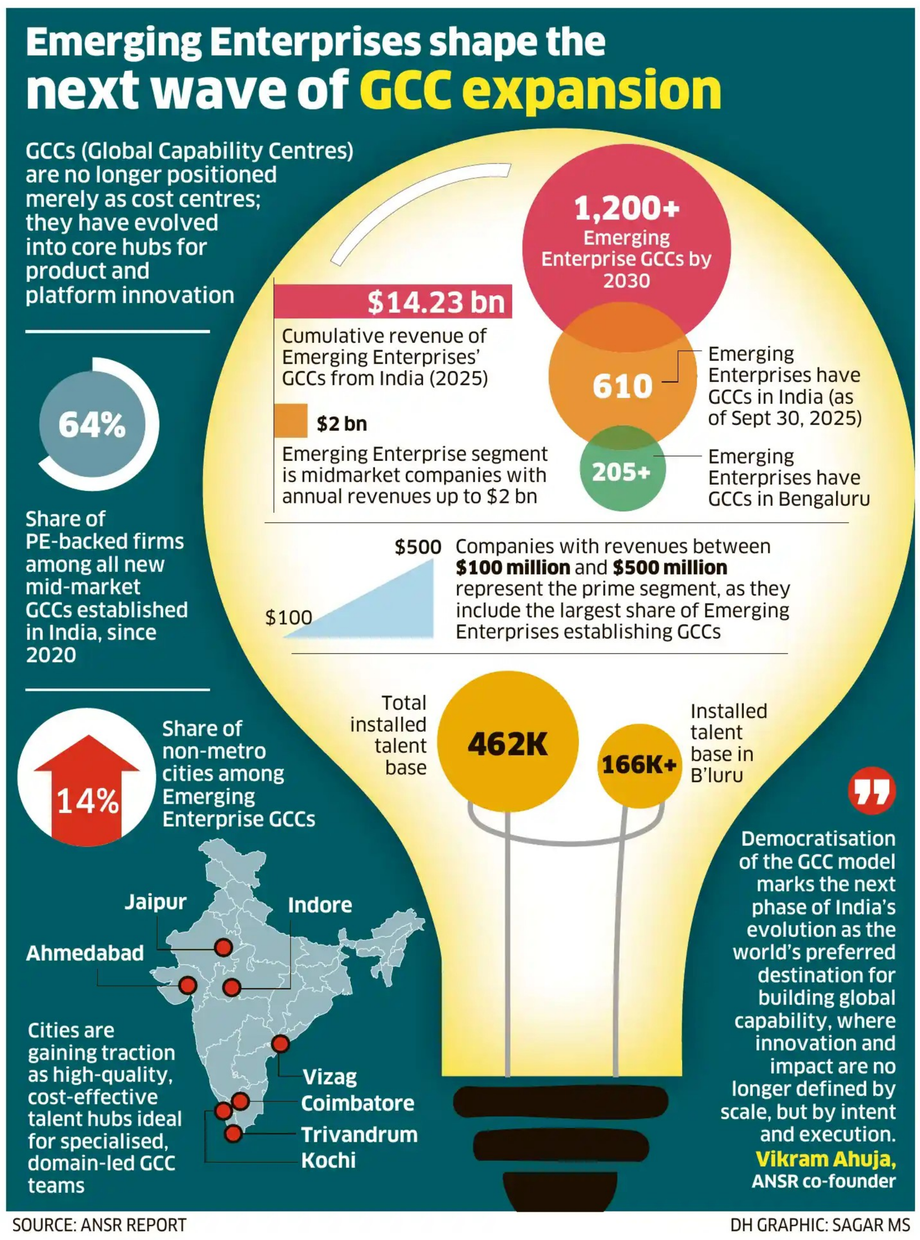
ಝಾರಖಂಡ್ ಸರಕಾರ
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕಾರ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತ ಕಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ
ಕಮ್ಬಾಇಂಡ ಬಿಲ್ಡಿಂಗ, ಓಲ್ಡ ಚಾಸ ಕೋಟ ಎರಿಯಾ, ಬೋಕಾರೋ।
ई– अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई– अल्पकालीन निविदा संख्या :- 29/RI/2024-25/RWD/EE/BOKARO दिनांक – 24.11.2025
कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, बोकारो द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र0 सं0	आईडेन्टी फिकेशन संख्या/पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में) अंक में	अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	टेण्डर कॉल नं0
1	RWD/EE/BOKARO/74/2024-25	पोखना से काशीटांड तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लम्बाई– 1.600 कि0मी0)।	2,23,77,000.00	दो करोड़ तेईस लाख सतहत्तर हजार रू0 मात्र	12 माह	द्वितीय

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:– 28.11.2025
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :– 09.12.2025 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :– 11.12.2025 अपराह्न 03.30 बजे।
5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, बोकारो, कम्बाइंड बिल्डींग, सिविल एस0डी0ओ0, ऑफिस ओल्ड चास कोट एरिया, चास बोकारो, झारखंड, पिन–827013
6. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0– 9431060119
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग
कार्य प्रमंडल, बोकारो।
PR 366972 (Rural Work Department) 25-26 (D)

Governor of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Davanagere
ಸಂ:ಕಾಪಾಇಂ/ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ವಿ/ದಾ/ಸ.ಇಂ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2025–26/1756
ದಿನಾಂಕ:–24.11.2025
Tender Invited (KPPP Portal)
Executive Engineer, Panchayath raj Engineering Division, Davanagere here by invited tender from PWD Registered contractors for the item rates through KPPP Portal. There are 18 works have been called, standard of tender documents KW-1 & KW-2 & KW-3 for price cost Rs.6.70 to 80.51 lakhs respectively and also highest & lowest EMD has as per KPPP portal for each work. Nature of work is Roads, Drians and Buildings. The last date for submission of tender bid is on date: 2/12/2025 5.00 PM for any office information/clarification please contact the below singed office Ph no:08192-250156 and also search website for www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in
ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/499/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26
Sd/- Executive Engineer
P.R.E. Division, Davanagere


Emerging Enterprises shape the next wave of GCC expansion
GCCs (Global Capability Centres) are no longer positioned merely as cost centres; they have evolved into core hubs for product and platform innovation
64%
Share of PE-backed firms among all new mid-market GCCs established in India, since 2020
14%
Share of non-metro cities among Emerging Enterprise GCCs
1,200+
Emerging Enterprise GCCs by 2030
$14.23 bn
Cumulative revenue of Emerging Enterprises' GCCs from India (2025)
$2 bn
Emerging Enterprise segment is midmarket companies with annual revenues up to $2 bn
610
Emerging Enterprises have GCCs in India (as of Sept 30, 2025)
205+
Emerging Enterprises have GCCs in Bengaluru
$500
$100
Companies with revenues between $100 million and $500 million represent the prime segment, as they include the largest share of Emerging Enterprises establishing GCCs
Total installed talent base
462K
166K+
Installed talent base in B'luru
Jaipur
Indore
Ahmedabad
Vizag
Coimbatore
Trivandrum
Kochi
Cities are gaining traction as high-quality, cost-effective talent hubs ideal for specialised, domain-led GCC teams
Democratisation of the GCC model marks the next phase of India's evolution as the world's preferred destination for building global capability, where innovation and impact are no longer defined by scale, but by intent and execution.
Vikram Ahuja, ANSR co-founder

SOURCE: ANSR REPORT

DH GRAPHIC: SAGAR MS

Policy measures to pave way for investment-led growth: RBI

RBI bulletin flags elevated global uncertainty

MUMBAI, PTI

Fiscal and monetary measures will pave the way for a virtuous cycle of higher private investment-led growth amid global trade policy uncertainties and external sector headwinds, the RBI Bulletin said on Monday.

An article published in the November Bulletin flagged that global uncertainty remains elevated.

Concerns persist about the heightened exuberance in global equity markets, raising questions about its sustainability and implications for financial stability, it said.

"The Indian economy showed signs of a further pick-up in momentum, despite continuing global headwinds. Available high-frequency indicators for October suggest a robust expansion in both manufacturing and services activities, supported by festive season demand and the ongoing positive impact of the GST reforms," said the article on 'State of the Economy'.

It also noted that inflation has moderated to a historic low and remained well below the target rate. Financial conditions remained benign, and the flow of financial resources to the commercial sector increased significantly from the year-ago level.

Amid global trade policy uncertainties and external sector headwinds, India's economy is turning out to be "more resilient to external shocks over time", backed by strong services exports, remittances receipts and oil prices becoming less detrimental to the current account sustainability.

The increasing share of renewables in India's energy mix is adding further resilience, the article said, adding that key external vulnerability indicators improved as of June-end from their levels at March-end 2025. The CAD to GDP ratio remained modest in Q1 2025-26.

Improved macroeconomic frameworks and outcomes have not only enhanced the ability of financial institutions to support the macroeconomy but also allowed the Reserve Bank to better calibrate regulatory measures to improve the efficiency of financial intermediation and augment the flow of credit to the broader economy, it said.

GDP growth to remain at 6.5% in 2025-26: S&P

High US tariffs weigh on expansion of manufacturing

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's GDP growth is likely to remain at 6.5% in the current financial year and may accelerate to 6.7% in 2026-27, S&P Global Ratings said on Monday.

In its latest Economic Outlook for the Asia-Pacific region, S&P Global said India's GDP growth would be driven by strong domestic demands.

"We anticipate that India's GDP will grow by 6.5% in fiscal 2026 (ending March 2026) and 6.7% in fiscal 2027, with risks evenly balanced. Domestic growth remains robust, driven by strong consumption, despite the impact of US tariffs," the rating agency added.

India's gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 7.8% in the April-June quarter of the current financial year. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has pegged the July-September growth at 7%. The growth momentum is projected to decelerate significantly in the second half of the current fiscal.

According to S&P Global, the Indian economy is likely to maintain the growth momentum in 2025-26 similar to the previous year, despite the US tariff.

"The spike in the effective US tariff on India is weighing on the expansion of export-oriented manufacturing in the country. But there are signs the US may lower tariffs on Indian products," it said.

The US has imposed a steep 50% tariff on majority of Indian goods effective from August 27. However, the two sides are negotiating a trade deal, which is likely to substantially lower the tariff.

"If India can secure a trade agreement with the US, it will reduce uncertainty and enhance confidence, which would boost labour-intensive sectors," S&P noted.

Despite external challenges India's growth momentum is likely to continue on the back of positive domestic factors. "Lowered goods and service tax (GST) rates will support middle-class consumption and complement income tax cuts and interest rate reductions introduced this year. These changes are likely to make consumption a greater driver of growth compared with investment, in this fiscal year, and the next," S&P Global said.

The rating agency has lowered its projection on India's consumer price inflation to 2.5% for the current financial year. However, the headline inflation is projected to accelerate to 5% in 2026-27 and remain elevated at 4.4% in 2027-28 and 4.5% in 2028-29. In 2024-25, India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation stood at 4.6%.

"In India, we have reduced our CPI inflation forecast to 2.5% for the current fiscal, as food inflation remains lower than we anticipated. However, we expect food inflation to normalise and forecast about 5% headline inflation the next fiscal year," it said.

On the weakness in the value of Indian rupee, S&P Global said, "Capital outflows have contributed to currency weakness. Added uncertainty from unexpectedly high US tariffs and the lack of a trade deal with US have further squeezed the rupee." The Indian rupee dipped to a record low of Rs 89.49 against a dollar on Friday.

Rupee up 46 paise as banks, importers sell US dollars

MUMBAI, PTI

The rupee rebounded sharply by 46 paise to settle at 89.20 (provisional) against the greenback on Monday, due to US dollar selling by banks and importers amid a dip in global crude oil prices.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened strong at 89.46 and moved in the range of 89.05 and 89.50 during the day. It eventually settled at 89.20 (provisional), up 46 paise from its previous close.

The rupee had plunged 98 paise to close at its lifetime low of 89.66 against the US dollar on Friday, due to a huge demand for the greenback in the domestic forex market amid widespread selling pressure in local and global equities and trade-related uncertainties.

In the steepest fall in over three years, the domestic currency nosedived 98 paise to finally settle at 89.66 against the American currency. The previous biggest one-day fall was recorded at 99 paise against the dollar on February 24, 2022.

"The RBI opened the dollar lower at 89.15 by selling in NDF (non-deliverable forward) markets... and kept it in a range of 89-89.30 for the day, as the market was wary of RBI selling," Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP, said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was marginally down by 0.02 per cent at 100.15.

India's forex reserves jumped $5.543 billion to $692.576 billion during the week ended November 14, due to a steep increase in the value of gold reserves, the RBI said on Friday.

Patil holds talks with 7 UK firms

BENGALURU, DHNS: The three-day UK visit of the Karnataka industry delegation led by Large and Medium Industries Minister MB Patil began on Monday, with the objective of attracting investments from major British companies and giving further push to the state's industrial growth. Over the course of this visit, Patil is scheduled to meet senior leaders from more than 20 companies.

On the first day, Patil held discussions with representatives of Martin-Baker, SCI Semiconductors, Samco Holdings, ARM, Latos Group, Weir, and the Edwardian Hotels Group.

He said these companies were given a detailed overview of Karnataka's industrial ecosystem —covering infrastructure, land availability, the ideas generated by the state's Vision Groups, the objectives of the Invest Karnataka Forum, emerging industries, the state's export-oriented industrial policy, as well as the various incentives and concessions.

State govt opens Centre for Entrepreneurship in K'buragi

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka government on Monday announced the launch of a new Centre for Entrepreneurship in Kalaburagi under its flagship LEAP (Local Economy Accelerator Program), a Rs 1,000 crore, five-year initiative designed to supercharge regional entrepreneurship, decentralise innovation, and accelerate economic growth across the state's emerging tech clusters.

The Centre for Entrepreneurship — being set up in partnership with the KrishiKalpa Foundation — aims to strengthen the innovation ecosystem in the Kalyana Karnataka region with a strong focus on agriculture, allied sectors, rural innovation, and emerging technologies.

Amagi gets Sebi approval for IPO

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru-based software-as-a-service (SaaS) unicorn Amagi Media Labs Limited has received Sebi's nod to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO), which will be a mix of Rs 1,020 crore fresh issue and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 3.41 crore equity shares by the selling shareholders, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP).

Amagi proposes to utilise Rs 667 crore from the net proceeds of the fresh issue towards investment in technology and cloud infrastructure, and the remaining amount towards funding inorganic growth through unidentified acquisitions and general corporate purposes.

As part of the OFS, the Investor Selling Shareholders - PI Opportunities Fund I, PI Opportunities Fund II, Norwest Venture Partners X – Mauritius, Accel India VI (Mauritius) Ltd., Accel Growth VI Holdings (Mauritius) Ltd., Trudy Holdings, AVP I Fund, and certain Individual Selling Shareholders will be offloading shares, an update with the capital markets regulator showed.

AI eyes 26 new planes in 2026

GURUGRAM, PTI: Air India Group expects to induct 26 wide-body and narrow-body planes, and operate 81% of its international flights with upgraded aircraft by the end of 2026, while overall capacity will remain almost unchanged next year.

"2026 will be a year of very visible change for Air India, notwithstanding the headwinds that we have faced in the last few months, whether it be AI 171 (crash) or other events, we're continuing our capital expenditure commitments...," Air India CEO and MD Campbell Wilson said on Monday.

In 2026, the airline will have lesser number of long-haul Boeing 777 planes, as some of the leased ones are being returned, and three such aircraft owned by the airline will be retired from the fleet. Currently, Air India Group has nearly 300 aircraft.

Embassy plans new projects worth Rs 10.3k cr

BENGALURU, DHNS: Embassy Developments Ltd will launch six new residential projects valued at Rs 10,300 crore in North Bengaluru. Among the upcoming launches are two premium RERA-approved residential developments, Embassy Greenshore and Embassy Verde Phase II, within the integrated township of Embassy Springs. Another launch planned for FY26 is a new residential development in Hebbal.

In addition to the expansive North Bengaluru footprint, the company will also unveil two projects including an invite-only villa community and a premium villa project, together covering 116 acres, planned for launch this year.

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BGRR/PvtSale/Q3/2025-26 — NOTICE FOR PRIVATE SALE OF GOLD — 24/11/2025

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold Ornaments pledged in the following Gold Loan accounts, with the under mentioned Branches of the Bank, which are overdue for redemption and which have not been regularized so far in spite of repeated notices, will be put for Private sale, in the respective Branches on any date after 10-12-2025 as shown below:

Br. Ainapur: Karchi Building, Opposite Pattan Panchayath, Ainapur, Taluk Athani, Belgaum, Karnataka-591303, Ph: 08339-254084:- 14976100019376, 14976900000188,14976400016627,14976400023136,14976400016080,14976400023516. **Br. Bagalkot: Prema Arcade, Engineering college circle, Vidyagiri PO,Bagalkot-587102:-** 21966400032212,21966400067390,21966400064777,21966400064850,21966400050065,21966100005138,21966400065329.
Br. Belgaum/Tilakwadi: Near 3rd Railway Gate, Khanapur Road, Tilakwadi, Belgaum, Karnataka- 590 006 Ph. No. 0831-2495439 :- 15306900001086,15096400044013,15096400044963,15306400023564,15096400029295,15306400023572,15306900001748.
Br. Belgaum/City: Ground Floor, Vijaylaxmi Arcade, Opp. Khade Bazar Police station, Narvekar Galli, Belgaum- 590002, Ph. no. 0831-2423460 :- 15096100249466,15096400040342,15096400041456,15096400042934,15096100250134,15096400040359,15096400041647,15096400043916,15096400035417, 15096400040557,15096400041829,15096400044021,15096400037686,15096400041159,15096400041845,15096400044583,15096400039799,15096400041324, 15096400042025,15096400044732,15096400044997,15096400045705,15096400046216,15096400041456,15096400045374,15096400045721,15096400046273, 15096400041647,15096400045457,15096400045747,15096400046281,15096400045572,15096400045788,15096400046315,15096400045671,15096400045903, 15096400046380. **Br. Bellary: Modi Chambers, 2nd Cross, Gandhi Nagar, Bellary, Karnataka-583 103, Ph. No. 08392-258667 :-** 15896400200055,15896400178426,15896400187609,15896400175000,15896400162636,15896400147090,15896100163801,15896400202549.
Br. Chitradurga: Opp.Vasavi Mahal, Basaveshwara Talkies Road, Chitradurga- 577 501, Ph. No. 08194-220931 :- 15946100083440,15946400107303,15946900007516,15946400103799,15946100084190,15946400103088,15946900009744,15946100085676,15946400105182, 15946400089733,15946100085379,15946900000602,15946400107295,15946400094402,15946400106461,15946900000685,15946900000958,15946900001204, 15946400104425,15946900001535,15946900000925,15946900001444,15946900001477,15946900007144,15946900007458,15946400104409,15946400104441, 15946900001592,15946900010601,15946400104532,15946900001584. **Br. Dharwad: Inamdhar Desai Arcade, Opp Spandhana Hospital, Vivekananda Circle,Saptapur, Dharwad- 580 001, Ph. No. 0836-2445280 :-** 16386400119645,16386400125642,16386900000360,16386400126335, 16386100024988,16386400127036,16386400113408,16386400120353,16386100025621,16386400128042,16386400129347,16386400121476,16386400120932, 16386900000220,16386400113614,16386400121518,16386400121492,16386400123845,16386400124298,16386400124520,16386400125634.
Br. Gulbarga: Plot No.7, 1st Floor, Main Road, Super Market, Gulbarga, Karnataka- 585 101 Ph. No. 08472-230107 :- 16046100063226,16046400056151,16046400057811,16046400044751,16046100069512,16046400063272,16046400058173,16046400058181.
Br. Ganeshpur: Plot No. 19, BUDA Scheme No 51, Near Military Hospital, Ganeshpur Main Road, Belgaum - 590 009, Ph no. 0831-2446719 :- 14956400027667,14956400014301,14956400026206,14956400025893,14956100110656,14956100108023,14956400029358,14956100113726,14956100110037, 14956400029440,14956100110029. **Br. Kagwad: Athani Road, Kagwad PO, Taluk-Athani, Belgaum, Karnataka- 591 223 Ph. No. 08339264628 :-** 14806100019425,14806100019565,14806100019607,14806400021105,14806400022236,14806400021196,14806400023184.
Br.Gangawati: Building No 2-12-81,82,83, Malleswara Complex, Koppal road, Gangawati-583 227 Ph. 08533-271861 :- 16856400146756,16856100052718, 16856100053146,16856400146152,16856400162993,16856400151301,16856400158454,16856400147655,16856400150592,16856100052411,16856100049102, 16856100052023,16856100052650,16856100052486,16856400147879,16856100051652,16856400123516,16856400152150,16856100052015.
Br. Hubli: Swastik Central, Niligin Road, New Cotton Market, Hubballi, Dharwad, Karnataka- 580 029, Ph. No. 0836-2369449 :- 13386400143549,13386400139000,13386400131064,13386400139638,13386400146559,13386400141741,13386400138994,13386400129043.
Br. Hiriyur: Prashantha Nilaya, Main Road, Hiriyur, Chitradurga Dist, Karnataka- 577 598, Ph. No. 08193271024 :- 19886400075983,19886900000317, 19886400087533,19886900000358,19886900000259,19886100020305,19886900000416,19886400079399,19886100021337,19886400092756,19886100020685.
Br. Haveri: C Plot No.30A, Vidya Nagar, P B Road, Haveri Dist- 581 110 Ph. No. 08375232784 :- 20436400070001,20436400095727,20436400095719, 20436100009259,20436400072262. **Br. Raichur: Ashwini Complex, Opp. Public Gardens, Ambedkar Circle, Station Road, Raichur- 584101, Ph. No. 08532-225091:-** 15736400161933,15736400161107,15736100026543,15736100025552. **Br. Vijayapura: CTS No: 1439,Upuli Burz Road, Opp.Milan Medicals,Near M G Road, Vijayapura, Karnataka- 586 101 :-** 23266400023008,23266400019634,23266400023891.
Br. Koppal: Kodandappa Complex, Near Kiran Paints, Jawahar Road, Koppal, Karnataka- 583 231, Ph. No. 0853-9220606 :- 21176400091107, 21176400107416,21176400116029,21176400071737,21176100009680,21176400108489,21176400116276,21176400109057,21176400109032, 21176100012635,21176100013831,21176400109495,21176400112648,21176400114677,21176100010530,21176400089796,21176400090927,21175600000512, 21176400109867,21176400118249,21176400109958,21176400090208,21176400110295,21176400110329,21176400110337,21176900000434,21176400110667, 21176400123132,21176400111020,21176400111046,21176400111004,21176100010548,21175500004747,21176400093715,21176100010548.
Br. Ranebennur: Gungadatti Building, Opp.KEB Office, PB Road, Ranibennur- 581 115, Ph. No. 08373-2621111:- 21116100003655,21116400044839.
Br. Ugarkhurd: Ghodagire Building, Opposite Post Office, Ugar Khurd, Athani Taluk, Belgaum- 591316, Ph no.8339 272325 :- 14996100014847,14996400039254,14996100015083,14996400037910, 14996400030543.
Br. Nipani: Dhole Prime, Ashok Nagar, Nipani, Belgaum-591 237, Ph. No. 083382231379:- 15086100041633,15086400046563,15086100042193, 15086100042482,15086100040908,15086100042375,15086400053122,15086400050920,15086400051175,15086100041872,15086100041955,15086100040700.
Br. Jamkhandi : Opp to Govts Girls High School, Near Bus Stand, Jamkhandi, Bagalkote- 587 301, Ph. No. 9663380119 :- 23846100000610.
Br. Chikodi: House No.3450, Sadguru Premnivas, Indiranagar, Chikodi, Belgaum Dist.- 591 201 :- 19396900000234,19396400014743.
Br. Belthangadi: Suvarna Arcade, Belthangadi, Dakshina Kannada Dist., Karnataka - 574 214, Ph: 08256-232404 :- 19016900000402.
Br. Channarayapatna: Ground Floor, Madhu Complex, Mysore Road, Channarayapatna, Hassan-573116, Ph: 08176-252438:- 19876400156149.
Br. Hebri: Spatika Plaza, Kuchoor Road, Hebri, Karkala, Udupi- 576112,Ph:08253250045:- 18966400034007,18966400033959,18966400035202.
Br. Hassan: Ground Floor, St. Antony's Church Complex, NR Circle, HN Pura Road, Hassan- 573 201 :- 13546400334386,13546400346315, 13546400340219,13546101039003,13546400344393,13546101047790,13546101044854,13546400349822,13546400224256,13546101037023,13546101037312, 13546101037593,13546400339997,13546400323710,13546400350226,13546400349798,13546400277742,13546400226103,13546400344526,13546400323504, 13546101039698,13546400345051. **Br. Karkala: Opp Bundimatt Bus Stand, Karkala, Udupi District, Karnataka- 574 104 :-** 19636900000803,19636400041380,19636400040432,19636400041596,19636100016799,19636400040952,19636400040986.
Br. Kadur: Dr Vishwanath Building, Maravanji Circle, BH Road, Kadur, Chikmagalur Dist, Karnataka- 577 548 Ph. No. 08267-221244 :- 18936100025878,18936100028211,18936400068107,18936400070541,18936400068404,18936400068297,18936400068396,18936400068560,18936400068362.
Br. Kadaba: Ground Floor, Anugraha Complex, Main Road, Kadaba, Dakshina Kannada dist., Karnataka- 574221:- 20126400047055, 20126100003366,20126400047303,20126100003499,20126400047378. **Br. Kundapura: Shivram Complex, Municipal Main Road, Kundapura, Udupi Dist. Karnataka- 576 201 Ph. No. 08254 233144 :-** 20146400089238,20146400089246,20146400089287,20146400084320, 20146400121437,20146400121429,20146400119365,20146400119340,20146400121692,20146400117716,20146100006672.
Br. Kushalnagar: HRS Mansion, BM Road, Kushal Nagar, Kodagu District, Karnataka - 571 234, Ph. No. 08276 274084 :- 19316100164796,19316100166114,19316100166221,19316400110226,19316100165546,19316100165504,19316400110242,19316400110234,19316100164960, 19316100166056,19316400110259,19316400110275,19316100164978,19316400105325,19316400110267,19316400110697,19316100168235,19316100170140, 19316100168961,19316400110705,19316100166007,19316400100250,19316100168979,19316400110663,19316400110671,19316400110689,19316400110853.
Br. Moodabidri: Next to Hotel Pancharatna Buidling, Moodabidri, Dakshin Kannad Dist.,- 574 227 :- 19626400087285,19626100007070, 19626100007138,19626400086014,19626900000358,19625600000155. **Br. Nellyadi: Elite Plaza, Nh 48, Near St. George P U College, Nellyadi, Dakshina Kannada dist.,- 574 229, Ph. No. 08251-256100 :-** 16446400091960,16446400110802,16446400109234,16446400110380,16446400093057.
Br. Mangalore: PB No. 775, Near PVS Circle, Manasa Towers, M G Road, Kodialbail, Mangalore, Dakshina Kannada-575003, Ph: 08242-497883:- 11756400045740,11756100095078. **Br. Mangalore/Kankanady: The Vintage, Kankanady, Dakshina Kannada, Mangalore- 575 002, Ph. No.: 08242430152 :-** 17706400041573,17706400041896,17706400041508,17706400041524,17706400041532.
Br. Shimoga: Haranahalli Manjappa Complex, Park Extension Road, Durgigudi, Shimoga District.,- 577 201, Ph. No. 08182-271998 :- 15906400090081,15906900002172,15906400098365,15906400104767,15906400103462,15906400097888,15906400093911,15906900002362,15906400100757, 15906400102613,15906900003261,15906900000648,15906900000564,15906400103280.15906400078334.
Br. Sullia: Ganesh Complex, Main Road, Sullia, Dakshina Kannada- 574 239, Ph. No. 08257 230818 :- 19006400052185,19006400059966, 19005500016710,19005500000185. **Br. Udupi: Mahalasa Towers, Court Road, Udupi, Karnataka- 576 101, Ph. No. 08202521562 :-** 15746400072881, 15746900004558,15746400072907,15746400072873,15746400072915,15746900000820,15746900003188,15746900000689,15746900001984,15746900001992, 15746900002008,15746100010579,15746100010587,15746100010595,15746900000564. **Br. Thokottu: R E B Complex, Opp.Thokottu Bus stand, NH17, Permannur Po, Thokkottu Jn, Dakshin Kannada– 575 017, Ph. No.08242462013 :-** 20136100017621,20136100017936.
Br. Arsikere : Near LIC Office, B H Road, Arsikere, Hassan, Karnataka- 573 103 :- 20306400059363,20306400059405,20306400053994,20306400059736.

Bangalore 24-11-2025 — Vice President & Zonal Head

How an internship at an NGO can change your life

ALICE MANI

When I was overseeing a viva voce by M.Com students about Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), an intern from an old-age home shared a profound realisation. She said, "Ma'am, I realised the value of my parents. I used to shout at my mother for her advice, but seeing parents abandoned yet speaking highly of their children completely changed my attitude."

All the students agreed that the internship helped them realise their blessings and motivated them to contribute their time, energy, or money to the underprivileged.

In today's complex world, while governmental and intergovernmental bodies often dominate the conversation about social impact, the crucial role of NGOs is frequently understated. These organisations are pivotal in creating meaningful, direct societal change.

For students, interning with an NGO offers benefits that extend far beyond a traditional professional experience, fostering personal growth and a deep sense of social responsibility.

An NGO internship is a unique opportunity to instil in students a sense of giving. By willingly serving the community without expecting personal financial gain, students build a distinctly different perspective on life. This mindset shift is profoundly beneficial, enriching both the individual and the community.

Students often become acutely mindful of the small things in life when working to uplift the underprivileged. Interacting with disadvantaged

people helps them appreciate their own lives more fully. Acknowledging one's own privilege while actively helping others is beneficial for the entire community, contributing to a vital social equilibrium.

Growth beyond the corporate ladder

Although not always paid or set in a corporate environment, NGO internships refine essential skills. Students commit significant effort to understanding a societal issue, learning to work collaboratively, and finding solutions. This process sharpens communication, organisation, and problem-solving skills—all highly valued in the corporate world.

Furthermore, because NGOs often operate with less bureaucracy and red tape than governmental bodies, students have the opportunity to grow exponentially. They see struggle firsthand, which ingrains compassion and significantly increases their emotional quotient (EQ). Empathising with people from different walks of life teaches humility, helping them become better versions of themselves.

Students also gain significant real-world experience through projects across various sectors — from finance and healthcare to education. They might even have the chance to scale a project or envision starting an NGO of their own, enriching and empowering everyone around them.

Education sector NGOs focus on advocacy, developing frameworks, and imparting basic literacy. Student volunteers not only enhance their own academic and interpersonal skills but also ensure a positive impact on those who cannot access or afford education.

Health-related NGOs spread disease awareness, source discounted medications, and promote healthy living. Students involved gain valuable work experience in organising such campaigns, while experiencing the joy of making a tangible difference.

In every sector, an NGO provides a context for students to make an impact and view life differently. The core traits of ethics of caring, purpose, and responsibility inherent in most NGOs contribute to emotional and psychological development. Students learn to understand the joy of giving more deeply—gaining happiness by spreading happiness. Their experiences profoundly shape them.

Individual action in the right direction can make a big difference. Take my own example. Witnessing the plight of blind children and specially-abled students during my University invigilation duty fifteen years ago deeply affected me. I felt an immediate urge to act on behalf of deprived sections of society. This is the long-term, lifetime impact that can result from associating with NGOs.

Navigating the downsides

While the mission of NGOs is generally noble, like any institution, they have shortcomings. Issues like politicisation or commercialisation are not uncommon. Some NGOs may be set up to create large databases and misuse personal data, or they might engage in fraudulent activities, such as linking educational institutions and healthcare services for a fixed commission.

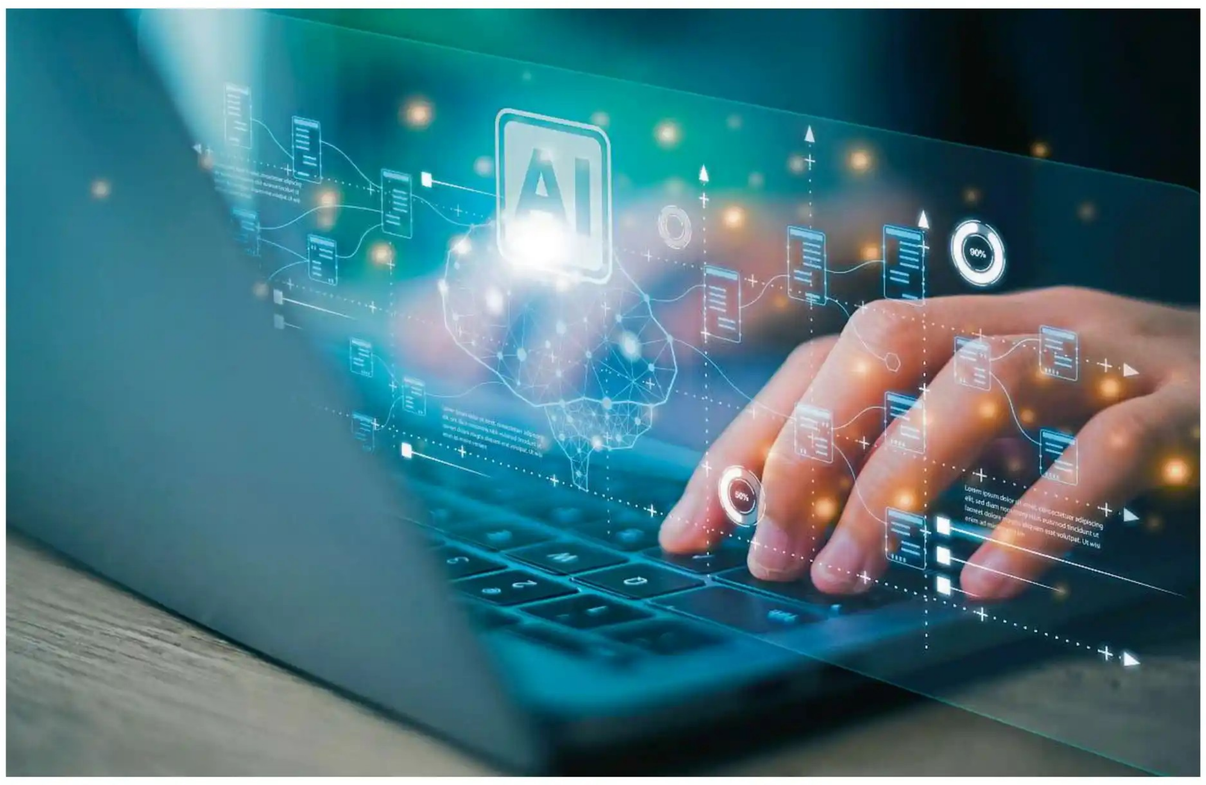
Our responsibility as citizens and educational institutions is to be mindful of due diligence. We must not blindly sign agreements. Educational institutions must thoroughly research an NGO's functioning before partnering, and volunteers with a sound moral compass must avoid joining organisations with questionable ethics.

Despite these potential pitfalls, the overall constitution and actions of the vast majority of NGOs reflect a genuine commitment to societal well-being. The impact a student makes on someone's life through an NGO internship is far greater than what can be recorded on paper. A country's infrastructure develops best when all organisations leverage their strengths in coordination. The need of the hour is for us to be empathetic toward the underprivileged and bring smiles to their faces without expecting anything in return.

(The author is an academic)

The art of making brands visible to AI

LLM seeding may replace SEO jobs soon, and content professionals need to be prepared, writes Anubha Khandelwal



If you're a student or fresh graduate looking at job postings for SEO roles, content strategist positions, or digital marketing opportunities, you've probably noticed something: the requirements have changed. Companies aren't just asking for traditional SEO knowledge anymore. They're looking for people who understand how AI discovers and recommends brands. They're searching for professionals with Large Language Model (LLM) seeding expertise and struggling to find them.

Here's why this matters for you: this field is less than 18 months old. Companies themselves are still figuring it out. Students who start learning now will become the first generation of experts in India. And in emerging tech, early movers always win.

What exactly is LLM seeding?

When someone asks ChatGPT, Gemini, or Perplexity about products or services, certain brands appear in the recommendations, and others don't. LLM seeding is the practice of ensuring your brand shows up when AI tools are asked relevant questions. It's about guaranteeing that accurate, comprehensive information about your brand is available across multiple platforms so that Large Language Models can discover, understand, and recommend you.

Traditional SEO focused on ranking on Google's first page. LLM seeding acknowledges that customers now ask AI assistants for recommendations, validate choices through Reddit discussions, watch YouTube reviews, check Instagram posts, and make decisions across multiple touchpoints, often without visiting a traditional search engine at all.

The shift is fundamental, and companies need people who understand it.

Understanding AI visibility

You don't need a course or certification to start learning. You can begin right now with a simple but eye-opening exercise.

Pick any brand, perhaps a local restaurant, a beauty brand, a coaching centre, or a self-care product. Then ask ChatGPT, Perplexity, and Gemini questions like: "Which brands offer the best skincare products in India?" or "What are good vegan restaurants in Bangalore?"

See if your chosen brand appears in the AI's response. If it doesn't, start investigating. Does this brand have an active Instagram presence? Are there YouTube reviews? Are people discussing it on Reddit or Quora? Is the founder or team active online, sharing their story? Are there blog posts, press articles, or media mentions?

This simple exercise shows you, instantly, how AIs "see" a brand and how LLM seeding actually works. You'll understand which types of content and platforms matter, and why some brands appear prominently while others remain invisible.

Once you've done the basic visibility test, try these experiments. Ask AI tools about local businesses in your city: restaurants, salons, coaching institutes, or fitness centres—notice which ones appear and which don't. Then reverse-engineer why.

The brands that appear usually have several things in common: consistent information across multiple platforms, active discussions about them in communities, reviews and testimonials, media coverage or blog mentions, and a clear, repeated narrative about what they offer and why they matter.

Document your findings. Create a simple report analysing three brands in the same category: one that appears prominently in AI responses, one that appears inconsistently, and one that doesn't appear at all. Understanding the pattern will teach you more than any textbook could.

Learning resources to follow

Since this field is so new, there's no single "standard" course yet. But you can build strong foundational knowledge through strategic learning.

Start following Neil Patel's blog and YouTube channel for insights on how content marketing is evolving. Explore Backlinko's blogs for deep dives into search behaviour and content strategy. Watch Ahrefs' YouTube channel for technical insights into how search and discovery work today. These resources are regularly updating their content to reflect AI-driven changes.

Join communities on Reddit where active conversations about digital marketing, SEO, and AI are happening. Subreddits focused on digital marketing, SEO, and emerging tech will expose you to real problems companies are facing, and solutions practitioners are testing.

While LLM seeding is new, traditional SEO certifications are still valuable. Completing online certifications from Google, HubSpot, or Semrush makes your bio stronger and shows a commitment to learning. But focus equally on actual, demonstrable knowledge. Any interviewer will judge you on your ability to articulate concepts clearly and apply them practically.

Skills you actually need

For students starting, keep your focus strategic first. You don't need hardcore coding skills. What you need is clarity, consistency, and content-mapping skills.

Understand basic prompt engineering: how people ask questions to AI tools and how those tools respond. Learn about structured data: how information is organised so that AI can understand entity relationships. Grasp how AIs retrieve and summarise information from across the web.

If you want optional technical exposure, explore how schema markup works, understand JSON-LD basics, and learn about knowledge graphs. But remember: most entry-level roles need people who can think strategically about content distribution, not people who can write complex code.

Create a portfolio project. Take a hypothetical brand or a real small business and create an LLM seeding strategy for it. Show where the brand currently appears when asked about by AI, identify gaps, and propose a content distribution plan. This single project will make you stand out in interviews.

The job market reality

Right now, job roles in the market are still called "SEO Expert," "Content Strategist," or "Content Writer," but increasingly these roles demand LLM knowledge. When you apply for these positions, demonstrate in your cover letter or interview that you understand how AI discovery works. Talk about multi-platform content strategy, not just keyword optimisation.

Companies are desperately looking for people who can help them stay visible as search behaviour changes. They need professionals who understand that being found now means being present across Reddit, YouTube, Instagram, LinkedIn, community forums, and AI knowledge bases, not just ranking on Google.

This field is so new that even experienced marketing professionals are still learning. You can build expertise from the ground up alongside the industry itself if you start now, to become the first generation of LLM seeding experts in India.

(The author is a content strategist working with a global AI firm)

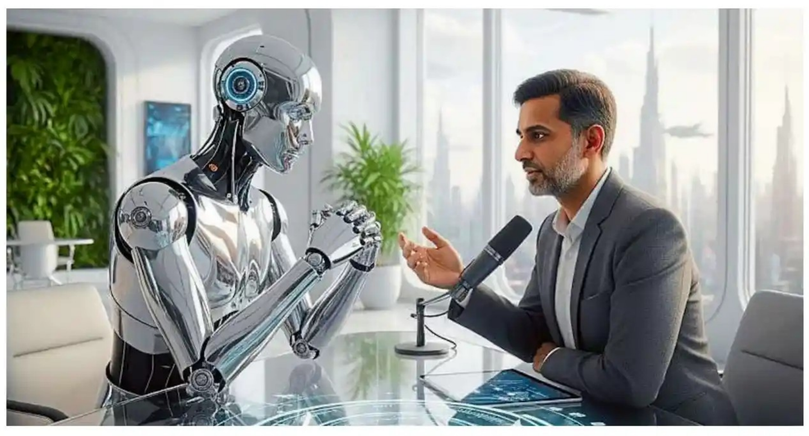
Here's how you can use AI tools to help you face job interviews

For most young professionals, artificial intelligence (AI) has quietly become a co-worker, a friend, a guide and a philosopher who never sleeps, never judges, and always has time to help. But the more you rely on it, the more you risk sounding exactly like it. There is also a risk of using it for things that do not matter to you in the long run.

Avoiding AI is not the goal here. One should make it work in a way that preserves your personality and strengthens your thinking. AI can analyse issues objectively based on the existing standards it has been trained on. That is what can make AI a smart, supportive career coach that amplifies your voice instead of replacing it.

There is a way to do this to get the best outcome. Most people use AI like a fancy search bar: "Write my cover letter," "Give me interview answers," "Tell me what this job does." And then they wonder why everything sounds identical.

The real magic happens when you give AI context — who you are, what you're aiming for, and where you feel



stuck. Try prompts like: "I'm applying for a developer's role with one year of experience in a tech startup. Point out three blind spots in my profile and tell me how to fix them in 30 days."

Or say something like: "I struggle with conflict. Here's a situation from work. Suggest tactful ways I can handle it."

If you are a freelance writer, ask something like: "Here are two versions of my pitch. Don't rewrite them. Tell me which parts lack clarity and why."

AI becomes a far better coach when it's analysing you, not generating for you. You benefit from AI without surrendering to it if you use it as an idea machine or a conversation partner. You can also ask AI to critique your write-ups or ideas, find flaws, check facts, research and find extra information.

Difficult conversations

Most of us don't get to practise high-stakes conversations — telling your manager you need help, asking for a raise, or facing a tough interview. AI gives you a safe rehearsal space.

Instead of asking for questions, simulate the real experience. You can actually ask it to interview you and then ask it to critique your responses.

"Act like a hiring manager at Deloitte interviewing me for a Business Analyst role. Ask one question at a time. After each answer, critique me honestly."

You can even raise the difficulty, such as asking it to interrupt you if you ramble or fumble, like a real interviewer would. AI can also help you ace salary negotiations by playing the role of a tough HR manager. It can help you figure out where your arguments fall flat.

You can rehearse tricky moments, too. You can ask AI to pretend like your manager and give you feedback that your communication is unclear, or other negative feedback. Then ask the AI how you performed in your response and for suggestions for improvement, which help you refine tone, clarity, and confidence — things nobody formally teaches.

Use AI for thinking, not copy-pasting: AI isn't at its best when you let it write everything for you. It helps you when you use it to think through decisions or use it as a sounding board. You can use it to:

- Break down a job description and spot hidden expectations
- Identify achievements in your projects that you may have overlooked
- Draft scripts for networking calls
- Compare job offers in a simple, logical framework
- Decode confusing feedback from your team
- Treat AI outputs as scaffolding, not the final structure.

A few tools worth exploring

You don't need a dozen new apps. Choose among just a handful that genuinely help:

- ChatGPT / Claude: Helps by coaching, analysis, tough conversations, and mock interviews
- Veed / Loom: Helps you practise video responses and review your tone and confidence
- Interviewing.io / PrepAI: Helps by simulating interview environments
- Notion AI: Can organise your learning, goals, and achievements in one place

AI can give you clarity, structure, and confidence — but only you can bring the warmth, the originality, and the lived experience. Think of AI as your sounding board, friend or rehearsal partner. When you use it that way, you get the best out of AI for your career, without becoming replaced by it.

(Curation: DHNS)

BULLETIN BOARD

Scholarship opportunity

ZS Associates India Pvt. Ltd. is offering the ZScholars Program 2025-26 to first-year students enrolled in general undergraduate courses (e.g., B.Sc., B.Com, BCA, B.A.) at institutions in Pune, New Delhi (NCR), or Bengaluru. Applicants must have secured above 60% in Class 12 and have an annual family income of less than INR 8 lakh. Selected scholars will receive financial assistance of up to Rs 20,000 annually. Last date: November 28. Apply at: https://t.ly/KAi4b

Central sector scheme scholarship

The Ministry of Education, Government of India, is offering the Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship 2025-26 to students currently enrolled in regular undergraduate or postgraduate programmes at recognised institutions. Applicants must have secured a minimum of 80% in Class 12 and have an annual family income below Rs 4.5 lakh. Selected scholars will receive financial assistance of up to Rs 20,000 annually. Last date: November 30. Details: https://t.ly/z_-rJ

Scholarship for army wards

The Army Welfare Education Society (AWES) is offering the Education Scholarship Scheme for Army Personnel (ESSA) 2026 to the wards of serving Army personnel and MNS officers currently studying in Class 9 to PG level. Applicants must be under 25 years of age. Selected students will receive a merit certificate and an annual scholarship of up to Rs 10,000 based on their level of education. Last date: November 30. Apply at: https://t.ly/_ZbWv

Sales and Outreach internship

NayePankh Foundation is hiring sales and outreach (S&O) interns who can work from home. Students with knowledge of advanced Excel, content marketing, digital marketing, excellent written and spoken English, marketing strategies, MS Excel, MS Word, Sales, and time management can apply by December 18. The stipend is Rs 15,000 lump sum. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/bh4RM.

Content writing internship

Warewe Consultancy Private Limited is hiring content writing interns who can work from home. Students with knowledge of blogging, creative writing, proficiency in spoken and written English, Search Engine Optimisation, Social Media Marketing, technical writing, and WordPress can apply by December 19. The stipend is Rs 4,000-6,000/month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/F4VOF.

Copywriting internship

PlatinumRx.in is hiring copywriting interns in Bengaluru. Students with knowledge of copywriting, creative writing, written English proficiency, script writing, and storytelling can apply by December 11. The stipend is Rs 10,000-15,000 / month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/T2ghg.

Human resources internship

Adilaxmi E-Commerce Private Limited is hiring human resources interns in Bengaluru. Students with good spoken English and proficiency in MS Excel and MS Word can apply by December 12. The stipend is Rs 7,500-10,000/ month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/yrBeh.

Send in your queries, suggestions and feedback to us at:
dheducation@deccanherald.co.in

(From left) Shaina Manimuthu, Sumith AR and Rujula Ramu pose with their spoils at the Junior National Championships in Itanagar.

Shuttlers Shaina, Sumith win National juniors

BENGALURU, DHNS: Shuttlers Shaina Manimuthu and Sumith AR clinched the U-19 girls' singles and boys' doubles titles respectively at the 48th Junior National Championships held in Itanagar from November 20 to 24.

Shaina defeated Tanoo Chandra 17-21, 22-20, 21-13 in the girls' singles final, while Karnataka's Sumith, partnering Lalremsanga C of Mizoram, won the boys' doubles title with a 21-13, 21-12 victory. Also, Karnataka's Rujula Ramu reached the girls' singles semifinals.

Other winners were Uttarakhand's Ansh Negi (boys singles), Vennala K-Reshika U (girls doubles), and Vansh Dev-Angel Puners (mixed doubles).

Results: Boys: Singles: Ansh Negi (Utt) bt Suryaksh Rawat (Utt) 18-21,22-20,21-11; **Doubles:** Sumith AR (Kar)/Lalremsanga C (Miz) bt Bhargav Ram Arigela (AP)/Viswa Tej Gobburu (AP) 21-13,21-12.

Girls: Singles: Shaina Manimuthu (Kar) bt Tanoo Chandra (Cht) 17-21,22-20,21-13; **Doubles:** Vennala K (Tel) /Reshika U (TN) bt Gayatri Rawat (Utt)/Mansa Rawat (Utt) 21-16, 21-9.

Mixed doubles: Vansh Dev (Del)/ Angel Puners (Utt) bt Bhavya Chhabra (Del)/Vishakha Toppo (Odi) 22-20,21-19.

Ashwa Jimbabe for main event

DELHI SELECTIONS

Ashwa Jimbabe, to be ridden by AS Peter and Ashwa Changez, to be piloted by Narendra Kumar from the trainer S Nawab are likely to dominate the finish in small field of four runners in the fray for the Milkfood Ltd North India 1000 Guineas, the first classic of the Delhi races to be run over a distance of seven furlongs at the races on Tuesday. The first race starts at 2:00 pm.

1. Tiana Plate - 1600M: Heer 1, Attenborough 2.
2. Ilahi Plate - 1100M: Ashwa Kangto 1, Nairobi 2, Danny's Girl 3.
3. Just Gold Plate - 1200M: Jet Thunder 1, Vedagarbha 2, Girl Power 3.
4. Milkfood Ltd North India 1000 Guineas - 1400M: Ashwa Jimbabe 1, Ashwa Changez 2.
5. Take A Risk Plate (Div I) - 1000M: Lemon Pie 1, Lady Danger 2, Master Tornado 3.
6. Take A Rise Plate (Div II) - 1000M: Maya 1, The Mentalist 2, Master Causeway 3.
Day's best: Ashwa Kangto. **Jackpot:** 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6. **Treble:** 4, 5 & 6.

FOOTBALL SUPER DIVISION LEAGUE

Kickstart realise a dream

After suffering a heartbreak last season, club triumphs this time

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

Kickstart FC players celebrate with the KSFA Super Division League Championship trophy at Bangalore Football Stadium on Monday. DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

Heartbreak is inescapable in sport. At one point or another, an individual or a team will experience it. And every time one endures heartbreak, it hurts and hurts bad. And for Kickstart FC, it came during their emotionally sapping final game of the Super Division last season.

"I can probably say that was the most heartbreaking, most painful and also the most devastating time that we had, those last 10 seconds," Kickstart FC founder & CEO Laxman Bhattarai tells *DH*.

Kickstart were seconds away from winning their first crown, but all the work that was done behind the lens that season was undone through a 97th-minute equaliser against Bengaluru FC.

And the season turned out to be the antithesis of everything success is about - trust the process, work hard, believe, endure, fight and there will be light at the end. However, sport does not owe anyone a thing and Kickstart left the Bangalore Football Stadium a dejected team that evening.

The pain, however, did not end there. And the aftereffects? Resignations. The head coach and the manager were two broken men who put their papers down, only for the team management to stand up and say, "If one could be the one to take us to the title, it is you guys."

Nine months on, they were right. At the very same BFS, there were tears again, but this time it was of joy. Kickstart had not only won their first Super Division title, but did so in some fashion – unbeaten and dominant – 18 games, 15 wins, three draws and 48 points.

And while Kickstart ended up unearthing many heroes along the way to the title, behind every strategic move, was Raghu Kumar (head coach) and his crew orchestrating the play. By flipping the script within a year, Kickstart have signalled they are ready for bigger things. The club is now turning its focus to the next level, with a clear ambition to establish itself as a conveyor belt of talent, eventually helping Karnataka and Indian football. "The dream is the Indian Super League. We know the kind of hurdles we're going to face. If everything goes well, we'll be in the I-League soon but developing youth will always be our priority."

As they continue to nurture their ambitions, the pressing question is: How? Infrastructure, says Founder and Chairman Shekar Rajan. "Why football needs investment in the infrastructure is that without the world-class infrastructure, you will not have world-class players. When infrastructure falls in place, the rest follows."

"We were the first ones to have built our own turf (own facility). We then ran an academy and we were doing well. But, the difference was, with all the money that came, we started building clubs. And the results that we have been getting speak for themselves."

Belief on a personal level is one thing. Finding a team to work with it is distinctly another. Maybe that's one way to end it, with a voice of who believed it was possible, "At Kickstart, we never say die, we don't give up and we don't take no for an answer," concluded Shekar.

Students Union win big

Akshay S netted a brace, Daniel Ganghte, Malsawm Dawnga Kima scored a goal apiece and a Mohammed Ibreahim Ahmad own goal helped MFAR Students Union FC thrash Bharat Bengaluru FC 5-2 in the KSFA Super Division League Championship at the BFS on Monday, reports DHNS from Bengaluru.

Results: MFAR Students Union FC: 5 (Daniel Ganghte 10th, Akshay S 38th, 77th, Malsawm Dawnga Kima 40th, Mohammed Ibreahim Ahmad 35th own goal) bt Bharat Bengaluru FC: 2 (Michi Mudo 47th, 83rd); MEG & Centre: 4 (Ahmed Asrarul Hug 24th, 90th+3, Sarath Narayanan 42nd, Shobhit Chhetri 69th) bt Sporting Club Bengaluru: 3 (Jomon Jacob 27th, Udity G 41st, Bennet B Babu 45th+2); Bengaluru FC: 2 (Chaphpamayum Rohen Rishi Singh 49th, Taorem Kelvin Singh 90th+5) bt Kodagu FC: 1 (Lalkrawsmawia 26th).

Special Awards: Best Goalkeeper: Srijith R (FCBU); **Best Defender:** Arjun Goud M (SCB); **Best Midfielder:** Shreyas Ketkar (BFC); **Top Scorer:** Ngairangbam Rakesh Singh: 20 goals (KFC).

Tantalising tussle in London awaits

Barcelona take on Chelsea; City play Leverkusen

BARCELONA, AFP

Barcelona's financial struggles are no secret and the Catalans have had to lean heavily on their youth academy to provide first-team calibre players over the past few years.

While superstar winger Lamine Yamal, in the mould of all-time Barca great Lionel Messi, draws most of the limelight, another La Masia graduate is proving increasingly vital in Fermin Lopez.

The 22-year-old midfielder is establishing himself as a regular starter for Hansi Flick, even though outside of Spain he is not yet a household name.

Chelsea know plenty about Lopez, though, having had a 40-million-euro ($46 million) bid rebuffed in the summer.

Barcelona visit Stamford Bridge on Tuesday in the Champions League with the midfielder as one of their main goal threats.

Flick was keen to keep Lopez, while Barca were open to selling him at the right price, which Chelsea did not reach.

"I'm convinced that he will stay, but in the end I don't know what happens. We have to wait. I am really happy when the market is closed," said Flick in August, eventually getting his wish.

Lopez joined Barca as a 13-year-old and badly wanted to stay. "He lives (for) Barca, he loves Barca," added Flick.

The German has his predecessor Xavi Hernandez to thank for helping to bring Lopez through.

In the summer of 2023 Xavi called Lopez up to the first-team squad in pre-season, and he scored against Real Madrid in a Clasico friendly, helping to stay in the coach's plans for the 2023/24 season.

Lopez also played 46 times for Flick last season as Barcelona won a domestic treble, although often as a substitute.

Tuesday's fixtures: Ajax vs Benfica, Galatasaray vs Union Saint-Gilloise (both 11:15 pm); Bodo/ Glimt vs Juventus, Napoli vs Qarabag FK, Marseille vs Newcastle United, Dortmund vs Villarreal, Chelsea vs Barcelona, Manchester City vs Leverkusen, Slavia Praha vs Athletic Club (all 1:30 am IST on Wednesday).

LIVE 11:15 PM ONWARDS SONY SPORTS NETWORK

Barcelona's Fermin Lopez will be looking to pull the strings in the midfield when the Catalans take on Chelsea in the Champions League on Tuesday night. AFP

Ekbote blazes to victory at short course meet

BENGALURU, DHNS

Participating as a guest swimmer for Dolphin Aquatics, Jay Ekbote blazed to gold in the senior men's 50m freestyle race at the 24th State Short Course Swimming Championships at the Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre here on Monday.

Ekbote touched the pad in 25.90 seconds ahead of Mangala Swimming Club's Dhanvith (26.63s) and another guest swimmer for Dolphin Aquatics, Rishap Kumar (27.12s), who took silver and bronze respectively.

Results (only winners unless mentioned): Men: 50m freestyle: Jay Ekbote (Dolphin Aquatics Guest, 25.90s).
100m breaststroke: Pragun Dev (Dolphin Aquatics, 1:16.78).
200m IM: Dhanvith (Mangala Swimming Club, 2:33.04).
Boys: Group I: 50m freestyle: Anish Aniruddha Kore (BAC, 24.68s) 1; Nishanth J (NAC, 24.70s) 2.
100m breaststroke: Vishagan Saravanan (BAC, 1:06.83).
200m butterfly: Swaroop Dhanuche and Vedanta V Madhira (both BAC, 2:11.83) 1; Amogh S Maddanimath (NAC, 2:13.71) 3.
200m IM: Raghav Swachandam (BAC, 2:09.69).
400m freestyle: Swaroop Dhanuche (BAC, 4:08.67).
1500m freestyle: Akshaj Parigi (BAC, 16:45.00).
4x50m medley relay: BAC (1:48.30) 1; NAC (1:51.43) 3.

Anish Aniruddha Kore.
DH FILE PHOTO

Group II: 50m freestyle: S Krish (BAC, 26.76s).
100m breaststroke: Siddhanth B Singh (BAC, 1:12.44).
200m butterfly: Aarav J (BAC, 2:16.42).
200m IM: Aarav J (BAC, 2:19.78) 1; Advait Dalvi (NAC, 2:25.04).
400m freestyle: Shreyas Sunil (SwimLife, 4:20.23).
1500m freestyle: Shreyas Sunil (SwimLife, 17:03.08).
4x50m medley relay: BAC (1:57.64) 1; NAC (2:05.33) 3.
Group III: 100m breaststroke: Avyukt Mohan (BAC, 1:20.56) 1; Samarth Bharadwaj (NAC, 1:21.72) 3.
100m butterfly: Lohitashwa Nagesh (Lakshyan Academy of Sports, 1:08.96).
4x25m medley relay: BAC (1:01.46).
Women: 50m freestyle: Rishika MV (Elite Sports Academy, 29.97s).
100m breaststroke: Rishika MV (Elite Sports Academy, 1:22.35).
200m IM: Rishika MV (Elite Sports Academy, 2:41.46).
Girls: Group I: 50m freestyle: Tisya Sonar (BAC, 27.75s).
100m breaststroke: Tisya Sonar (BAC, 1:18.07).
200m butterfly: Vaishnavi G (NAC, 2:37.64).
200m IM: Mihika Dutta (Dolphin Aquatics) 1; Hitashree N (NAC, 2:36.41) 2.
400m freestyle: Mihika Dutta (Dolphin Aquatics, 4:41.94) 1; Hitashree N (NAC, 4:50.81) 3.
1500m freestyle: Adithi Vinayak Relekar (BAC, 18:15.92).
Group II: 50m freestyle: Tanvi Gaurav (SwimLife, 28.95s).
100m breaststroke: Manya R Wadhwa (Dolphin Aquatics, 1:19.79).
200m butterfly: Manya R Wadhwa (Dolphin Aquatics, 2:33.54).
200 IM: Manya R Wadhwa (Dolphin Aquatics, 2:34.37).
400m freestyle: Tanvi Gaurav (SwimLife, 4:46.99).
1500m freestyle: Idika Bhat (Zee Swim Academy, 19:02.86).
Group III: 100m breaststroke: Drithi Abhilash (BAC, 1:23.11).
100m butterfly: Nayana A Madhyastha (NAC, 1:13.18).

Prajwal sweeps ITF M15 titles

BENGALURU, DHNS: Mysuru's SD Prajwal Dev **(in pic)** clinched both the singles and doubles titles at the ITF World Tennis Tour M15 in Bhubaneswar that was held from November 16–23.

In the singles final, second-seeded Prajwal Dev defeated seventh-seeded Digvijay Pratap Singh 7-6(4), 7-6(1) in a tight encounter with both sets decided through competitive tiebreaks. In the doubles, top-seeded pair of Prajwal Dev and Siddhant Banthia secured the championship.

The duo defeated Madhwin Kamath and Rohan Mehra 7-6(5), 6-2 in the final, completing a straight-sets victory that added a second title to Prajwal Dev's successful campaign.

India to host silver level athletics meet in '26

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Athletics Federation of India is gearing up to host the Indian Open World Athletics Silver Level Continental Tour a couple of weeks after the Commonwealth Games in July-August next year.

Officials confirmed to *DH* that AFI has sent a letter of intent to Odisha, which hosted the first-ever Bronze Level Continental Tour last August, to host the one-day silver meet in Bhubaneswar.

As per AFI's proposed calendar for the 2026 season, which is subject to confirmation from the federation's top brass, the silver meet is slated at the Kalinga Stadium on August 22. The tournament is an upgrade from the bronze-level Continental tour, which is a C category event while the Silver meet is a B category event, likely to attract further quality athletes in search of higher ranking points.

The crucial domestic season, which will see athletes aiming for Asian Games and CWG qualification, may see just one event in Bengaluru as the city may host the inaugural Indian Athletics Series in April. In the same month, Mangaluru is likely to host the U-20 Nationals, which will also serve as the trials for the U-20 Asian Championships.

Rajeshwar shines in CBC triumph

LOCAL BASKETBALL

BENGALURU, DHNS: Rajeshwar top-scored with 31 points while Nithin added another 15 for Cincinatics BC during their 87-51 win over SBI in the State Association Cup Championship at the Sree Kanteerava Courts here on Monday.

Results: Men: Cincinatics BC: 87 (Rajeshwar 31, Nithin 15) bt SBI: 51 (Siddalinga Patil 18, Pavan Yeri 14). HT: 38-21; BCYA: 66 (Rohith 22, Afride 11) bt Yelahanka New Town BC: 51 (Cheguevara 19). HT: 43-25; Sahakarnagar BC: (Rocky 14, Aditya 11) bt Young Bulls BC: 56: (Sanmith 13, Likith 10). HT: 31-27; MCHS: 63 (Vihan 15, Shubam 14) bt CJC: 21 (Vinod 9). HT: 36-7; Vivek's SC: 67 (Nitin 27) bt Appaiah BC: 37 (Suchir 10). HT: 47-15; Beagles BC: 73 (Pratham 26, Arpan 18) bt Hebbal BC: 47 (Vishesh 15). HT: 39-15; Bangalore Vanguards: 59 (Varun 17) bt Pattabhiram BC: 42 (Arham 26). HT: 36-23; MNK Rao Park BC: 74 (Ajin 19, Faaz 14) bt Bharath Su: 69 (Akshay 27, Kanishka 23). HT: 34-25.

Women: South Western Railway: 79 (Sruthi 22, Sobana 19) bt Vimanapura SC: 18 (Samyuktha 10). HT: 35-9; Mysuru A: 65 (Madhushree 21, Dhanushree 15) bt Bangalore Sporting: 20 (Huviksha 10). HT: 31-13; Beagles BC: 44 (Chandana 12, Sanjana 10) bt CJC: 25 (Aadhya 10, Dhrithi 10). HT: 38-10; Rajmahal BC: 67 (Aadya 20, Nikitha 14) bt Vijayapura: 32 (Lalita 16). HT: 41-20; Mounts Club: 49 (Anvitha 18, Nidhi 17) bt Bangalore Vanguards: 45(Aditi 17, Tisha 10). HT: 27-29.

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Dated:21.11.2025

KPPP PORTAL TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of Governor of Govt. of Karnataka Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking water and sanitation division, Vijayapur has invited tender through KPPP Portal for water supply JJM (In village pipeline network system with Tap and meter installation) works as follows.
Two Cover : 03 Works
Last date for submission of online tender through KPPP Portal. is 09.12.2025 at 5.00 PM, Date of Pre Bid Meeting 06.12.2025, Date of opening of Technical bid is 10.12.2025 at 5.30 PM. Date of opening of Financial bid is 12.12.2025 at 11.00 AM.
More details can be have from the office of the undersigned and also through www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- (Taranath Shankar)
Executive Engineer,
RDW & S Division Vijayapur

ವಾಸಾಸಂಜ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/489/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Special Division, Amruthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru - 560 092.
No:BNCC/EE/SD/TEND/04/2025-26 **Date: 24-11-2025**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(TWO COVER SYSTEM)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
The Executive Engineer, Special Division, BNCC invites tender on behalf of the commissioner, BNCC, Bengaluru from eligible registered agencies in any state Govt. Oraganization for providing services mentioned in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the Project
1.	Providing Control Room in Bengaluru North City Corporation under disaster management for the year 2025-26. **Amount put to Tender: ₹ 99.95 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 2.00 Lakhs.**

Calendar of Events : (1) Last Date & Time for Queries (Only through Online) is **01-12-2025** upto **4:00** pm. (2) Date & Time of Pre-Bid meeting on **01-12-2025** upto **3:00** pm. (3) Last date & time for Receipt of Tenders is **12-12-2025** upto **4:00** pm. (4) Opening of Technical Bid on **15-12-2025** at **11:00** am if Possible next working day. (5) Opening of Financial Bid on **17-12-2025** at **4:00** pm if possible.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Special Division, BNCC

Department of Health & Family Welfare
KARNATAKA STATE AIDS PREVENTION SOCIETY
Arogya Soudha, 4th Floor, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560023.
Ph: **080-2955 7021**, e-mail: **pdksaps@gmail.com**
No: KSAPS/24/2025-PROC Date: 21.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender invited from eligible bidders for providing **training venue, food and accommodation for participants for financial year** 2025-26. Details are available at website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Last date for submission of tender on **15.12.2025 at 5:30 pm.**

Sd/- Project Director
Karnataka State AIDs Prevention Society
Bangalore.
DIPR/CP/3987/SA/2025-26

BELAGAVI SMART CITY LIMITED
1st Floor, BUDA Office, Ashok Nagar, Belagavi - 590 016. Phone : 0831 - 2461352,
E-mail : bscltd16@gmail.com, Website : www.bscl.in

Tender Ref. No: BSCL / Works Tender / 2025-26 / 513
Date: 24-11-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the **Managing Director Belagavi Smart City Limited Belagavi,** bids are invited from eligible bidders through E-Procurement cum Request For Proposal (RFP) for the below mentioned projects. Further details may be downloaded from the e-procurement website of Government of Karnataka **(https:kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**

Name of the Work:
1. Improvements to bituminous road beside Kakati police station Belagavi.
2. Construction of Paver Road at Azad Society 6th cross and Shiv Nagar 7th cross (Omkar Nagar), near KLE International school, Belagavi.

1) The date from which document can be downloaded is: **25-11-2025 to 11-12-2025 up to 5.00 PM, 2)** Last Date for Submission of Bid **11-12-2025 Up to 5.00 PM, 3)** Last Date to receive Technical Queries: **29-11-2025 UP to 4.00 PM, 4)** Pre-Bid Meeting is on **01-12-2025 @ 11.00 AM** at BSCL office, **5)** Technical Bid Opening is on: **15-12-2025 At 11.00 AM., 6)** Financial Bid Opening Date: **17-12-2025 @ 11.00 am.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, (Procurement)
Belagavi Smart City Limited, Belagavi.
DIPR/Belagavi/1371/Manipal/2025-26

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064
WEBSITE: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

E - TENDER NOTICE No: RWF/M/OT/MWFPS/2025-26/60RT dtd. 20/11/2025

E - TENDER: On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer invites electronic tender for the following work online through the website http://www.ireps.gov.in (Works).
Sl. No. 1. **Tender No.:** RWF/M/OT/MWFPS/ 2025-26/60RT dtd. 20/11/2025. **Name of the work:** Need based maintenance of cleaning Machine No.1 & 2 and peening machine No.1& 2. **Estimated Cost in Rs. :** 14,60,992/-. **Earnest Money Deposit in Rs.:** 29,200 /-.**Date &Time of Closing of Tenders** : 12/12/2025 at 10.30 Hrs. **Completion Period:** 18 Months.
DY. CME/W-II

E - TENDER NOTICE No: RWF/EL/OT/WSC/2025-26/59 dtd. 21/11/2025

Sl. No. 1. **Tender No.**RWF/EL/OT/WSC/2025-26/59 dtd. 21/11/2025. **Name of the work:** Need based Replacement of Water Cooled Cables in EAF-A,B & C. **Estimated Cost in Rs.** : 4,75,200.00. **Earnest Money Deposit in Rs.:** 9500. **Date & Time of Closing of Tenders :** 13/12/2025 at 10.30 Hrs. **Completion Period:** 24 Months
This tender notice can be viewed on our website " **www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in** ".
DY. CME/Melting

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER
(only through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.
Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & Quality Assurance), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-560009.

Sl. No	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount		Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1.	EE (QA)	BWSSB/EQATE/PB/996/2025-26 Date: 21.11.2025	1.	Rs. 71,28,300/- Rs. 1,42,566/-	02.12.2025 upto 5:30 pm.	04.12.2025 at 12.00 hrs.
2.		BWSSB/EQATE/PB/994/2025-26 Date: 21.11.2025	2.	Rs. 78,35,400/- Rs. 1,56,800/-		
3.		BWSSB/EQATE/PB/998/2025-26 Date: 25.11.2025	3.	Rs. 23,72,744.38 Rs. 47,500/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer EE(QA)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the abovesigned office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/3990/SSC/2025-26

IN BRIEF

UP girls humble Karnataka

▸ Uttar Pradesh's disciplined bowling, led by Garima Yadav's 4-for, spelt doom for Karnataka as the former scored a 5-wicket win in the BCCI Under-23 Women's T20 Trophy at the Gurugram Cricket Stadium in Sultanpur on Monday, reports DHNS.

Results: Karnataka: 77 all out in 19.4 overs (Garima Yadav 4-16) lt to Uttar Pradesh: 78/5 in 18 overs (Tripti Singh 31; BG Tejashwini 2-15, Deeksha J 2-13) by 5 wickets.

IISc, Hockey GC in 2-2 draw

▸ IISc Gymkhana Club and Hockey GS C played out a 2-2 draw in the KSHA C Division Hockey League Championship on Monday, reports DHNS from Bengaluru.

Result: IISc Gymkhana Club: 2 (Dhanpal Bairwa 14th, Pawan Kumar 38th) drew with Hockey GS C: 2 (Nishchay 24th, Arvind Raj 34th).

State TT in D'ballapur

▸ The Dr MS Ramaiah Memorial Karnataka State Ranking Table Tennis tournament will be held at the Hill Sports Academy, Doddaballapur in from Dec 1 to 3, reports DHNS.

India's match rescheduled

▸ The Indian hockey team's second round robin match against Belgium in the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup tournament was rescheduled to Tuesday due to inclement weather, reports PTI from Ipoh, Malaysia.

The match between India and Belgium started on time but after just three minutes heavy showers forced the on-field umpires to stop the contest.

Free tickets for Jr hockey WC

▸ Hockey India announced om Sunday that entry for all matches of the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup, to be held in Tamil Nadu from Nov 28 to Dec 10, will be completely free of cost, reports DHNS.

Fans can secure their free virtual tickets through www.ticketgenie.in or the Hockey India mobile app.

CRICKET INDIA-SA SECOND TEST

Indians stare at another HOME HUMBLING

South Africans scent big win after Jansen's 6/48

MADHU JAWALI
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Indian skipper Rishabh Pant (right) wears a downcast look after being dismissed for a reckless shot while the South Africans erupt in celebration on the third day of the second Test in Guwahati on Monday. PTI

After a day of hard toil for the Indian bowlers on Sunday, Kuldeep Yadav felt the pitch here at the ACA Stadium resembled the road for its unresponsive nature. But the Indian batters found negotiating South African bowling on it as difficult as a motorist would find navigating the pot-holed Bengaluru roads.

Marco Jansen, who hurt the hosts with the bat on Sunday, returned to haunt them again -- this time with the ball. The gangling paceman produced his fourth career five-wicket haul (6/48) that brought South Africa on the brink of a famous series win in India after a 25-year gap. Overnight 9/0, India folded up for 201 in 83.5 overs in just under three sessions, conceding a massive 288-run lead. By stumps on Monday's third day, the tourists, who didn't enforce follow-on, extended their lead to 314 after racing to 26/0 in their second innings.

Indian batters were anticipating another stern test from a three-pronged South African spin attack on a third-day wicket, but Jansen came out of the syllabus for them. After a largely uneventful first spell (7-0-21-0) that extended from towards the end of the second day, the left-armer returned to wreck India with a hostile spell of fast bowling here at the ACA Stadium.

India, already reeling after three vital blows from the Proteas' spinners, slipped into deeper crisis as Jansen prised out four wickets in the first 25 balls of his second spell (8-1-18-4) while conceding just 11 runs. Overnight 9/0, in reply to South Africa's 489 all out, KL Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal (58) largely looked comfortable.

Though both left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj and off-spinner Simon Harmer earned some turn and bounce, both the openers negotiated the tricky phase rather well, embracing contrasting styles. While Rahul remained cautious, Jaiswal never let go of a boundary-scoring opportunity as India slowly but surely pegged away at South Africa's big total.

With the session seemingly going India's way, Maharaj struck to give South Africa an opening, ending a 65-run alliance. The left-armer tossed one on the off, got it to turn and bounce before the ball went off the shoulder of Rahul's blade to a safe-as-house Aiden Markram. Jaiswal didn't last long after his 50, becoming the first of Harmer's three victims. The southpaw looked to cut a slightly wide delivery, but the ball jumped more than Jaiswal anticipated and a late decision to check the shot resulted in a catch at backward point.

Two became three in no time as Harmer ended Sai Sudharsan's stay at 15. An encore of Kolkata looked on cards when Jansen decided to own the stage. After effectively employing his long reach to blast his way to 93 on Sunday, the pacer used his tall frame to extract disconcerting bounce even if the pitch appeared to have slowed down a touch. Three of his first four wickets fell to mean bouncers that left the Indians in complete disarray.

Dhruv Jurel's attempted pull ballooned to the right of mid-on as the extra bounce drew a miscued shot. India went into tea at 102/4 after being 95/1 not too long ago.

Upon resumption, Rishabh Pant showed undue hurry. The stand-in skipper went for a big heave against Jansen only to put wicketkeeper Kyle Verreynne in business. If his attempted slog wasn't shocking enough, his review of the on-field decision was even more perplexing as the big spike on the snicko suggested a healthy edge.

Nitish Reddy got a snorter which he couldn't keep down, Adien Markram completing a one-handed diving catch. Ravindra Jadeja evaded a bouncer, but the ball ricocheted off his shoulder to bat en route to Verreynne.

At 122/7, India looked like they would fold up for a sub-150 total but Washington Sundar (48), batting at No. 4 this time, launched a now-familiar rearguard resistance along with an equally plucky Kuldeep (19). But Harmer struck again before Jansen returned to complete a six-for in a final spell that read 2.5-2-5-2.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA (I INNINGS): 489

INDIA (I INNINGS; O/N: 9/0):

Jaiswal c Jansen b Harmer (97b, 7x4, 1x6)	58
Rahul c Markram b Maharaj (63b, 2x4)	22
Sudharsan c Rickelton b Harmer (40b, 2x4)	15
Jurel c Maharaj b Jansen (11b)	0
Pant c Verreynne b Jansen (8b, 1x6)	7
Washington c Markram b Harmer (92b, 2x4,1x6)	48
Nitish c Markram b Jansen (18b, 1x4)	10
Jadeja c Harmer b Jansen (18b)	6
Kuldeep c Markram b Jansen (134b, 3x4)	19
Bumrah c Verreynne b Jansen (17b, 1x4)	5
Siraj (not out) (6b)	2
Extras (LB-8, NB-1)	9
Total (all out, 83.5 overs)	**201**

Fall of wickets: 1-65 (Rahul), 2-95 (Jaiswal), 3-96 (Sudharsan), 4-102 (Jurel), 5-105 (Pant), 6-119 (Nitish), 7-122 (Jadeja), 8-194 (Washington), 9-194 (Kuldeep).

Bowling: Jansen 19.5-5-48-6, Mulder 10-5-14-0 (nb-1), Maharaj 15-1-39-1, Harmer 27-6-64-3, Markram 10-1-26-0, Muthusamy 2-0-2-0.

SOUTH AFRICA (II INNINGS):

Rickelton (batting) (25b, 1x4)	13
Markram (batting) (23b, 2x4)	12
Extras (B-1)	1
Total (for no loss, 8 overs)	**26**

Bowling: Bumrah 3-0-13-0, Siraj 3-1-8-0, Jadeja 1-0-2-0, Kuldeep 1-0-2-0.

Towering Jansen stands tall with all-round show

MADHU JAWALI
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Before play resumed on the third day, Marco Jansen was engaged in a conversation with his legendary compatriot Dale Steyn. One of the greatest fast bowlers the sport has ever seen, Steyn appeared to be demonstrating grips and angles as the eager young quick listened intently.

A few hours later, Jansen produced the kind of spell Steyn unleashed on India during his prime, especially when conditions suited him in their own backyard. Think back to Ahmedabad in 2008 when he took 5/23 or Nagpur in 2010 when he demolished the hosts with 7 for 51. That Nagpur performance also happened to be South Africa's last Test win in India before the recent triumph in Kolkata.

Just like those iconic spells paved the way for Proteas victories, Jansen's outstanding return of 6/48 -- second-best figures for a South African pacer in India -- has now placed his team on the verge of their first Test-series victory in the country in 25 years.

At 6 feet 8 inches, Jansen literally towers over everyone on the field, but over the past two days he's stood even taller in performance. His talent with both bat and ball are obvious, but his 2.1-metre frame grants him an extra edge. With that enormous reach, the right-handed batter, who bowls left-arm, nullified India's spinners on day two on his way to a superb 91-ball 93. On day three, he used his height to devastating effect, banging the ball in and extracting an unsettling bounce that shattered the Indian batting lineup. As one batter after another trudged back, undone by his relentless short-pitched assault, one wondered whether the surface was an Indian track or something transported straight from South Africa.

Ironically, despite his height giving him such dominance, Jansen would perhaps happily trade it for the skill set of shorter fast bowlers such as Steyn who can hit the top of stumps rather see their balls fly over

"For me, I've always struggled bowling in India whether it was white ball or red ball... I'm still jealous of people that get the ball to squat and nip back," he said as the media contingent broke into a laugh. "... Yesterday was a perfect example, the ball goes over off stump because I'm so tall like a different bowler like KG (Kagiso Rabada) that's hitting top of off. So I've always been jealous of those people who are a bit shorter than me.

"(But) on the reverse, when there's a wicket with a bit of pace and bounce then I get to extract more out of it, especially here. I've tried to learn what's going to work for me, what's going to help me to perform to the best of my ability and help the team win and today was just one of those days. I got the pace and the bounce out of the wicket and it's just one of those days where everything clicks and everything works and as a player, those days you take it and you run."

Terming the pitch as a good one with a bit of pace and bounce, Jansen said he didn't expect the day to pan out in the manner it did and believed spinners had a great role to play over the next two remaining days.

South Africa's Marco Jansen blew India apart with a sizzling 6/48 show in the second Test in Guwahati on Monday. PTI

Karnataka nudge ahead on seesawing day

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka marched marginally ahead on the second day of their Elite Group C Cooch Behar Trophy game, securing a 35-run lead in the first innings against Himachal Pradesh at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Monday.

At stumps, Himachal were 69 for two, leading Karnataka by 34 runs, with skipper Aditya S Kataria (7 not out) and Armaan A Vij (4 not out) in the middle.

Earlier, resuming from their overnight score of 36 for the loss of one, it was Aadesh D Urs at the forefront, scoring a gritty 179-ball 61, lacing it with six fours to help the hosts nudge ahead before they were bowled out for 197 in 76.2 overs.

Brief scores: Himachal: 162 all out & 69/2 in 27 overs (Vaatsav R Garg 28, Arpit Singh 30) vs Karnataka: (O/n: 36/1): 197 all out in 76.2 overs (Aadesh D Urs 61, Dhruv Krishnan 38, Akshat Prabhakar 28; Akshay P Vasisht 4-37, Naunihaal R 3-48).

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

2nd Test: India vs South Africa **(day 4, 9 am). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network.**

FOOTBALL

Champions League: Ajax vs Benfica, Galatasaray vs Union SG **(11:15 pm)**, Galatasaray vs Union SG, Man City vs Leverkusen, Marseille vs Newcastle **(all 1:30 am, Wednesday). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

A day of missed opportunities

Pressure of World Cup final gets to Sindarov, Yi as they settle for a draw

MANISHA MOHITE

Wei Yi of China ponders a move against Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan in their World Cup final on Monday. FIDE

The pressure of contesting their first ever FIDE World Cup final was clearly telling on both -- the higher rated 26-year-old Wei Yi of China and 19-year Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan. The first game at the Resort Rio in Goa was a mixture of solid and aggressive play and probably a missed opportunity by Wei wielding Blacks, as the game petered into a draw on Monday.

On Tuesday Wei will play with White pieces and a victory by either would mean winning the World Cup. A draw would enforce the tie-break under faster time controls on Wednesday. The event which had started with 200 plus players spread over eight rounds has been a gruelling one, spread over four weeks with the last Classical game scheduled today.

In the play-offs for the third place which garners a Candidates spot, Alexey Esipenko moved closer with a fine victory over Nodirbek Yakubboev of Uzbekistan. Esipenko has been very impressive but a trifle unlucky in this event, missing some great opportunities by a whisker, especially losing in the semifinals by a blunder on the last move against Wei. He held on to his game and nerves and a draw tomorrow will suffice for him to clinch the third spot.

The ceremonial first move of the first game of the finals was made by Ace shooter Abhinav Bindra, the first Indian to win an individual Olympic gold.

Not surprisingly, Wei once again stuck to what rapidly looks like his favourite, the Petroff defence against the King Pawn Opening of Javokhir Sindarov. Yesterday he had smilingly quipped during the press conference that 'All top Chines players play the Petroff. Sindarov rolled over his Kingside pawns indicating his willingness for aggression but Wei defended well and managed to get a better position.

Results: 1st Game of Finals: Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb) drew with Wei Yi (Chn) 0.5-0.5.

Play offs for third place: Andrey Esipenko (FIDE) bt Nodirbek Yakubboev (Uzb) 1-0.

Grand welcome for victorious women's team

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Indian women's cricket team for the blind were received with a grand welcome here on Monday after the Deepika TC-led team won the inaugural Women's T20 World Cup in Colombo on Sunday.

Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) head Mahantesh GK, a visually impaired former cricketer who runs an NGO for the disabled, announced that two different private bodies have granted a combined cash prize of Rs 1,25,000 for each member of the team.

Captain Deepika, who is a partially sighted or B3 category cricketer from Tambalahatti village in Karnataka-Andhra Pradesh border, turned emotional at the grand reception and spoke her heart out.

Members of the Indian women's cricket team for the blind and CABI chief Mahantesh GK cut a cake during a felicitation event in Bengaluru on Monday. DH PHOTO/ BK JANARDHAN

"When we won the World Cup, I was thinking about the families of each of my teammates, it was the culmination of all the hard work we did to reach here, facing flak from society for years," said a teary-eyed Deepika.

CABI chief Mahantesh was overwhelmed by the occasion too.

"It was a matter of immense pride when the world body (WBCC) asked us to host the event. However, we didn't have any sponsor till October 25 (three weeks before the first match)."

Italy players celebrate after completing a Davis Cup treble following their 2-0 win over Spain in Bologna on Sunday. AFP

Italy make it three on the bounce

BOLOGNA, AFP

Italy claimed a third Davis Cup in as many years on Sunday after beating Spain 2-0 in front of delighted home fans in Bologna and completing a treble without star player Jannik Sinner.

Flavio Cobolli sparked loud celebrations by coming back from a set down to beat Jaume Munar 1-6, 7-6 (7/5), 7-5 and ensure that Italy retained their title.

Matteo Berrettini had earlier cruised to a 6-3, 6-4 win over Pablo Carreno Busta, setting Filippo Volandri's team up for victory without the doubles match needing to be played.

Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori haven't been employed in a doubles contest in northern Italy as the hosts won the Davis Cup without losing a match.

It's an impressive feat by Italy who competed without their two highest-ranked players in superstar Sinner and Lorenzo Musetti.

Both players sit in the top 10 of the men's world rankings and were major absences for the tournament, especially as they chose not to take part in the title defence on home soil.

"It doesn't matter who goes out there for us, we have a deep squad who play great tennis," said Berrettini.

Spain too were missing their top player in world No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz.

India win women's kabaddi WC

DHAKA, PTI: The Indian women's kabaddi team on Monday secured its second consecutive World Cup title with a 35-28 win over Chinese Taipei here.

India emerged on top in a tournament involving 11 countries.

Unbeaten India were in sublime form throughout the tournament. They had beaten Iran 33-21 to enter the summit clash. Chinese Taipei, on the other hand, beat hosts Bangladesh 25-18 in the semi-finals.

In the league stage, India displayed their dominance with wins over Thailand, Bangladesh, Germany and Uganda.

It was India's second major title of the year following their triumph at the Asian Championships in March.

Former India captain Ajay Thakur said: "The win shows how much women's kabaddi has progressed in the last few years."

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